

National Statistics show that some of the poorest places in the UK are also the happiest- it's not all about economic growth! Consider emailing the Secretary of State heidi.alexander.mp@parliament.uk with your views.

Plant to Plate Festival
Multiple locations in Central Horsham – Sat 26th April

From 10am-4pm on Saturday 26th April, six venues across Horsham town will come alive to celebrate our thriving local food culture. Join in for a fun- and information-packed day with expert talks and demos about growing, preparing, eating and sharing. There will be 'free-from' recipe books and their authors, soil and nature-friendly gardening talks and composting advice. There will even be a town crier and live street music throughout the day, with a special performance by an international player!

Kids can join in too, enjoying a miniature nature trail, games and campfire cooking.

As well as the local food and drink stalls, there will be the monthly vegan market and the popular repair services to fix that much-loved clock or vintage frock!

If you would like to volunteer at the event (and we'd love you to!), please contact Rosie at brown@sussexgreenliving.org.uk

Horsham District Council - New Address

Albery House
Springfield Road
Horsham
West Sussex RH12 2GB

Tel: 01403 215100

Holy Trinity Playgroup

This friendly, independent playgroup is right in the heart of the community, based in a large bright hall with access to a spacious patio and lawned garden area. They offer government funded term time only spaces for 2-4 year olds for local families and have availability from September 2025. If families want to arrange a visit they can contact Julie & Nicola at holytrinitymanagement@gmail.com

2nd Horsham Scout Group

We were delighted to donate £90 to the 2nd Horsham Scout Group who have been working on making their outdoor space accessible and easier to use, to enable our local young people to benefit from more outdoor activities all year round. It's a fantastic way to get youngsters off their screens to enjoy learning practical life skills which grow their confidence and make our communities stronger, happier and safer. Many thanks

are due to the volunteers who lead the groups. The funding supported planting in two triangular beds either side of the new patio and they researched what will grow well there, looking at plants which will provide year-round interest in a south-facing aspect, with flowers for pollinators and berries for the birds. The 2nd Horsham's young people were involved in the planting of the plants and will enjoy maintaining the areas.



A 2nd Horsham Beaver and Squirrel enjoy planting up their new flower bed

Contacting HTNC

Thanks and farewell to Maria who has been our Neighbourhood Warden for many years. With her friendly approachable nature, she has been real asset and we wish her well. We hope to welcome new warden Jordan to the team soon.

Oscar will happily continue with us and is contactable on 07795051555.

Our Police community support officer, Kyle is contactable on Kyle.Berriman1@sussexpolice.uk

Councillors

Neighbourhood: Morag Warrack, Colin Bush, Ed Coulson, Olive Hobbs, Mark Francis, Joe Carpenter
All the above can be contacted through our clerk, Rhoda Hatton: clerk@horshamtrafalgarnc.com
Horsham District: Martin Boffey (Leader, Lib Dem): martin.boffey@horsham.gov.uk
Anthony Frankland (Lib Dem): anthony.frankland@horsham.gov.uk
Horsham Hurst (WSCC): Nigel Dennis (LibDem): nigel.dennis@westsussex.gov.uk

Quality of Life

Warden: Horsham.NeighbourhoodWardens@horsham.gov.uk
• Oscar Johnson – 07795051555

Other Services

support@horsham-matters.org.uk OR 0300 124 0204
info@horsham-matters.org.uk for Youth Work teams
Roads / Out & About
<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel> to report potholes
<https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/sussex> - Time to get walking again!

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TRAFALGAR

Spring 2025

Horsham Trafalgar Neighbourhood Council (HTNC)

Your Neighbourhood Council meets on the second Wednesday of the month. Residents are always welcome to attend.

Contact clerk@horshamtrafalgarnc.com for more information.

Our website is www.horshamtrafalgarnc.com

Message from the Chair | spring 2025

HTNC is an apolitical non statutory body. This is a personal view from the chair and does not necessarily represent the views of the council as a whole.

Recently I helped to run an online Action for Happiness course: it brought to mind our safe and happy Neighbourhood- good people, local community support, two strong eco-churches, four community-facing pubs, various scouts, cubs, brownies and guides groups, and many singing, sewing, making, growing groups including the allotments and the riverside walk volunteers. How wonderful!

We can all do our bit. Globally, we may see much that we'd like to change, but here many people support local businesses, host refugees, volunteer to teach and offer their skills so readily that we have a strong community who go above and beyond, so I'm delighted once again to be looking forward to the HTNC Community Awards which will be presented later this year.

Worldwide, changes are happening so fast that it seems we can take nothing for granted, and locally, we have the unexpected cancellation of the West Sussex County Council elections, so those in power will now simply remain in power. All parish councils are now being encouraged to make emergency plans for extreme circumstances such as pandemics, power-cuts, lack of water or flooding.

As we make ours, it's heartening to recognise the good in our safe, happy community and I'd encourage residents to see the bigger picture. We are one of the wealthiest countries in the world, but one of the most nature depleted, with poor mental health strongly linked to that. We have one of the best health services in the world, but worryingly high rates of malnutrition and obesity linked to consumption of ultra-processed products.

There is no quick fix, but rather than make your comments to FB or NextDoor, do make those same valid comments to the relevant

people-those who actually make the decisions! "All it takes for bad things to happen is for good people to do nothing." Your voice matters- find out who you need to speak to. We need to be prepared as much as possible for a building onslaught from those who run the world and projects which benefit mainly overseas investors rather than local residents.

We need to work hard to protect our community. While we know access to green, natural spaces is our 'Natural Health Service', it is also a boost to the economy, as people are attracted to pleasant green areas. Please let's consciously keep some special spaces for future generations, and not be like greedy king Midas, destroying what we touch.

Sadly, my generation has sleepwalked through thronging meadows of flowers and butterflies into a concrete desert. Let's reverse that for the next generations!

4TheYouth

4TheYouth is a local youth charity providing a variety of support, interventions, and opportunities for young people across Horsham.

One area of support provided is one to one support for young people. The sessions are an opportunity for young people to discuss any worries or issues they may be facing. These sessions will run for as long as the young people feel the benefit. Most young people that receive 1:1 sessions are either referred by the young person's school or other professionals.

4the Youth also runs many youth clubs across Horsham including the Youth Wing at The Forest School and Hurst Road Youth Centre. Another asset they utilise is the Mobile Community Hub (commonly known as the Snack Wagon).



The Mobile Community Hub (pictured) is used to support young people where they naturally congregate. It is currently going out to Horsham Park on a Monday 3pm-4:30pm, The Needles playing field

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on a Monday evening, 6:30pm-8pm and Horsham Town Centre on a Wednesday afternoon 3pm-4:30pm. It provides hot chocolate and a chance to chat to a youth worker and socialise with others.

A Town Council for Horsham?

When the 50th anniversary of Horsham District Council was celebrated last year, no one suspected that it might also be the end!

With our government’s plans for bigger authorities, the compulsory services such as roads, schools, family support, and adult social care would all come out of one budget for half a million people. ‘Nice-to-have’ provisions such as sports centres, play parks, library, theatre etc are likely to be impacted.

The Local Plan, which has been almost a decade in the making, has still not been passed as the government inspector stopped the process last year. We hope this will soon be adopted as it should give some protection from unwanted development.

There are hopes that we will be able to create a town council for Horsham. A public meeting will be held on Tuesday 29th April at 7.30pm in the Brighton Rd Baptist Church, and everybody is welcome to attend.

Finances

In line with our commitment to protecting the environment, we are looking into moving our account to Nationwide, as HSBC, like Barclays, are major funders of fossil fuel projects.

Safety

Remember **vapes, batteries and broken electricals** can be collected by simply leaving them in a transparent bag on top of the blue-lidded bin. (Not broken electricals)

Parish Council Emergency Action Plans

Here in Trafalgar, we are working hard towards creating a resilient community. We work well together, doing our best to create a healthy happy environment for everyone.

Part of an emergency plan is to set up a ‘communication tree’ so that one or two people in each street might volunteer to communicate urgent messages to other residents, for example when there is a spate of car thefts or if the electricity is cut off.

Have a look at our website to see our developing **One Planet** community.

Simple things like popping a **Lions Emergency Health Pot** in

the fridge for first responders to easily find your medical details can help save lives.

The **Meals on Wheels** service is available to all. www.hils-uk.org (Health and Independent Living Support)

Joining a **Neighbourhood Watch** group is also a simple way to be connected, especially when the police are so stretched.

Trees

Trees provide shade when it’s hot, they mitigate floods when it’s wet. They give us our oxygen and provide homes for countless species. We hope to plant more.

Councils ‘own’ trees but we need to preserve them for the community. They can’t survive without our care. Let’s not just be tree planters but tree carers and tree gardeners too looking after them long term as we would a pet; watering them in a drought. Even with tree Protection Orders, it has been known for developers to fell trees illegally, sometimes with assistance from police or councils.

Volunteering

Could you join us? We need one more councillor. We hold just eleven 2hr meetings each year (none in August). Please check out our website for more details: <https://horshamtrafalgarnc.com/what-do-we-do/notice-of-vacancy-in-the-office-of-neighbourhood-councillor/>

Twenty is Plenty

We would like to thank you for your patience in finding out the results of our 20mph application to West Sussex County Council. Unfortunately, they decided that it did not score highly enough to be funded.

This was on two counts. One that the existing average speed of traffic is already below 20mph, and the other was that they wished to see greater public support for the proposal. They have suggested that we consider looking at a smaller area where the criteria may be better applied.

We appreciate the widespread support given for the proposal and the Neighbourhood Council will therefore be considering alternative proposals. Although average speeds may be low, it is the maximum speed of vehicles which is causing concern, and by considering a smaller area it is hoped to canvas 100% of residents on any changes to gauge support.

The good news is that we have secured a site for a second speed device in Rushams Road and continue to discuss the location for one in Redford Avenue with residents.

Wildlife

Foxes, squirrels, magpies and cats are all thriving predators on other species. Young birds in particular are vulnerable throughout the whole spring and summer, with cats, dogs and grey squirrels particularly destructive.

Hedgehogs and many other species on the other hand, such as the lowly house sparrow, are now in danger of extinction. We ask that you consider the wider implications of using chemicals to kill insects and plants in your garden. 96% of flesh on the planet is now us humans and our domesticated animals, leaving only 4% wild animals!

Finally, please bring a plastic box to take your dog poo bags home or pop them in a bin. Don’t let your dog swim in the lake as we are trying to support Warnham Nature Reserve as much as possible, not only because of disturbing the water life, but because dogs are so often dosed with flea chemicals that it is now impacting our wildlife chain, even to the extent that fledglings have been found dead amongst the soft poisonous fur that their nest was lined with!

Hedgehog Homes in Trafalgar

Winter nests are essential if hedgehogs are to survive hibernation. In autumn hedgehogs normally begin to collect dry leaves, grass, bracken, reeds etc. and use these materials for building their own nests at the bottom of hedgerows, fallen logs or piles of bramble. However, with the increasing trend for tidy recreation spaces and neat gardens often this material is in short supply reducing the opportunity for the hedgehog to make a natural nest. This is where providing a ready-made hedgehog house can be an invaluable help.

To this end Trafalgar Neighbourhood Council after a detailed survey of potential sites, commissioned Men’s Shed Horsham to produce a series of boxes/homes using 100% recycled materials.

Before the onset of winter we were able to place two boxes around the recreation ground - with one in Trafalgar Infants School, two located at either ends of the Shelley allotments, two being located around the edges of Birds Farm allotments, one in the 2nd Horsham Scout Hut grounds, and one in the garden of Holy Trinity Church.



Chris (L) of Shelley Allotments with a new hedgehog box. David Bridges (R) and chair Morag.

Hopefully some of our prickly friends will have taken up residence in these deluxe abodes. Should you happen to spot one of our houses, please don’t try to look inside as you might disturb a hedgehog during hibernation which can often make it try to seek an alternative home when it’s not fully rested.

Consultation on Proposals for a Mayoral Combined Authority for Sussex and Brighton.

A consultation on proposals for a Mayoral Combined Authority for Sussex and Brighton is now open and everyone across the county is invited to have their say.

The Government is running the consultation, which is specific to the Sussex and Brighton region, until the end of the day on **Sunday 13 April**.

All interested parties are welcome to have their say, including organisations, as well as individuals who live and work in the region.

- The consultation specifically asks about:
- The proposed geography
 - Supporting the economy
 - Improving social outcomes
 - Local government services
 - Improving the local natural environment
 - Supporting the needs of local communities & reflect local identity

Horsham District Council and its neighbouring Districts and Boroughs will put in a response, as will the upper tier authorities of West Sussex County Council, East Sussex County Council and Brighton & Hove City Council.

Full details of the consultation can be found here: www.gov.uk/government/consultations/sussex-and-brighton-devolution

Gatwick

As part of the Campaign Against Gatwick Noise and Emissions (CAGNE) parish council group, we are in favour of maintaining Gatwick Airport as it is. If the plans to expand many UK airports go ahead, with Dunsfold, Shoreham (now Brighton City Airport) and Farnborough all increasing flights, the air space over Horsham is set to become very busy indeed, as plans devised by Vinci and Black Rock (two of the biggest companies in the world) intend to re-direct the current east-west flight path due south over Horsham to avoid all the other flights that will be zooming around: a plane roughly every minute! As well as the noise and air pollution, the traffic, plastic waste and sewage that an extra 40 million passengers a year would bring would need to be dealt with locally.