



# Horsham Town Community Partnership

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## **Minutes of HTCP Directors' Virtual Zoom Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 7.30pm**

### **1. Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed Directors and Members to the Zoom Meeting.

### **2. Attendance:**

David Searle (DSe) - HTCP Chair and representing North Horsham Parish Council,  
Diane Sumpter (DSu) - HTCP Treasurer and representing Horsham Forest NC  
Martin Bruton (MBr) - HTCP Director and representing Horsham District Older People's Forum  
Ron Bates (RB) - HTCP Director and representing Horsham Society  
Roland Knight (RK) - HTCP Director and Volunteer  
Sue Brundish (SB) - HTCP Director and representing Horsham in Bloom  
Ian Botting (IB) - HTCP Director and representing Horsham Denne Neighbourhood Council  
Chris Glover (CG) - HTCP Director and representing Friends of Horsham Park  
John White (JW) - HTCP Member and Volunteer  
Sara Doy - Minutes Secretary

### **Apologies**

None

### **3. Conflicts of Interest: None**

### **4. Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021.**

Approval of the minutes was proposed by MBr, seconded by RB and agreed by all.

### **5. Chairman's Report (David Searle)**

The Chair's report was circulated prior to the meeting. DSe advised that due to the pandemic and the new Covid variant, Directors Meetings would continue using Zoom. It is unlikely that face-to-face meetings will commence again until Spring as the Roffey Millennium Hall is still being used as a Covid Vaccination Centre.

**5.1 Riverside Walk Improvements** : Improvements have come to a halt until such time as HDC releases more funds, which is unlikely in the immediate future as there are more pressing issues to be addressed. The walk continues to be very popular with local residents and visitors to the town. The HTCP website has been receiving lots of hits from people looking for information and a map of the walk.

**5.2 Mobility Scooters:** There are currently no plans to reinstate the sessions until there is a considerable reduction in the spread of the new variant. Several local residents have asked when sessions will start again and are keen to enroll. It is hoped the session can re-start later in the year.



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- 5.3 Integrated Bus Map:** The map has now been displayed in noticeboards at Horsham Railway Station and in the Carfax. DSe met with Bob Lanzer, WSCC Chair of Health & Wellbeing Committee, Rowen Tyler, WSCC Community Development Officer, and Lewis Jackson, Metro Bus, to view the map and see how it could be developed further. There have been a number of hits on the HTCP website to view the bus map.
- 5.4 Welcome Back Fund:** HTCP supported HDC with entertainment in the town during the run up to Christmas which was appreciated by those out doing their Christmas shopping.
- 5.5 Re-wilding Horsham Town:** When the HTCP proposal to construct and erect bug hotels in trees around the town was investigated further it became apparent that the structures would need to be removed each year, cleaned and stored over winter. As HTCP does not have sufficient resources or storage available it was decided not to pursue the project. In the meantime HDC appointed a consultant 'Creative Waves' to work with HTCP and put together a proposal.
- DSe met Nadia Chalk from Creative Waves and discussed ideas to promote re-wilding, increase the footfall in town and work with other community groups. It was decided to organise a Bug Hunt. Pictures of bugs could be displayed in existing frames around the town. The Bug Hunt will consist of displaying pictures of bugs in 20 shop windows for children to find and identify and displaying pictures in existing frames located in the Carfax, Bishopric and Museum Garden. Workshops have been arranged with Bohunt School and The Butterfly Project to produce the pictures. Provided the project is not affected by Covid it is planned for the event to be launched at the February half-term holiday.
- The project plan and costs have been submitted to HDC for approval and it is hoped to start on the development of the project in early January. Costs will be paid directly to suppliers by HDC.
- SBr commented that 20 shops is a lot to achieve.
- DSe added that it is hoped the Bug Hunt will encourage people to visit the shops and the smaller independent shops are preferred. Creative Waves did a similar project in Worthing.
- MW commented that the Bug Trail would not help to encourage bugs back into the town centre, but would just be to educate children. She suggested an idea of installing boxes of edible plants and herbs e.g. strawberries, that could be used by restaurants and picked by children. Possible locations could be East Street and the Forum.



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**5.6 Annual Riverside Walk:** The Annual Riverside Walk was again a great success last year with about 350 people taking part, starting and finishing at New House Farm. About £3000 was raised for the Parkinson's Society. A number of thank you emails were received from participants with comments about how much they enjoyed the walk and discovered lots of places along the route that they did not know existed. HDC Chairman David Skipp completed the walk.

The HTCP Team that organized the annual walk have decided after 7 years to stand down and let a younger group of volunteers take it over. Horsham District Scouts have always supported the event and have decided that they will take over the organization. HTCP wishes them well and hopes the event will continue under their leadership for many years. The 2022 event will take place in May.

**5.7 Queen's Green Canopy:** To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee DSe proposes that HTCP consider joining the initiative to plant trees to form the Queen's Green Canopy.

DSe suggested that trees could be planted along the Riverside Walk. The landowner's permission will be needed, but it is mainly HDC land. He will speak to Pete Crawford/ HDC and make an application. If this is not successful HTCP does have sufficient money to purchase some trees.

MW commented that WSCC are offering trees for no charge.

**ACTION:** MW to forward details to DSe.

DSe suggested a possible location could be near Skylark Nursing Home and St Mark's Church.

SBr added that Horsham in Bloom could contribute financially if required.

The responsibility for the trees was discussed. MW gave an example of the Victory Road recreation ground. HDC look after the trees for the first two years while the roots get established.

DSe said that HDC will provide guidance as to where the trees should go. He will discuss it with Pete Crawford and report back.

## **6. Financial Report (Diane Sumpter)**

The draft accounts and Treasurer's Report were circulated prior to the meeting.

The balance at 30.11.21 was £6169.56 (General account = £3035.08; Deposit account = £3134.48)

**i) Accounts:** DSu advised that there is a charge of £59 every 2 years for the website domain, and a payment for software and web hosting will be payable in April. DSu forecast that with the maintenance grant of £500 from HDC the HTCP finances are in a healthy position.



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- ii) **2023 Maintenance Grant:** DSu queried when HTCP should apply for 2023 maintenance grant. DSe said it is on the Agenda for the next Community Partnership Forum Meeting.
- iii) **Financial Year End Accounts:** DSu will prepare these for the April meeting.
- iv) **Company House:** DSu requested that the Directors advise her of any change of address.
- v) **Nat West Account:** DSu explained that she had received a letter which advised that the HTCP Business profile needed to be updated by 3/2/22 which she is dealing with but it is not straightforward.
- vi) **Online banking:** DSu asked if HTCP should switch to online banking. DSe thought this would make payments easier. It was agreed that it would be discussed at the April meeting.

## 7. Updates from Other Organisation

### 7.1 Neighbourhood Councils

- i) **Horsham Forest NC:** DSu said that the three Neighbourhood Councils are still waiting for a date for the Blueprint Referendum which has been delayed partly due to the water neutrality issue.
- ii) **Horsham Denne NC:** IB commented that the HDC Local Plan has been postponed for 6 to 9 months also due to the water neutrality issue.
- iii) **Horsham Trafalgar NC:** MW said that Trafalgar NC are advertising for a new Treasurer. TNC has also set up the Leonard Crosbie Service to the Community Award to recognise individuals and groups.

### 7.2 North Horsham PC

- i) **North of Horsham Development:** DSe said there is a liaison meeting with the Developer every 3 months. L & G are very helpful and open. The bridge over the A264 has been delayed until April so a bus service has been arranged to transport children to and from the new Bohunt school.

Due to the water neutrality issue building has been put on hold apart from the phase which already has permission.

The new development has been named 'Mowbray'. The supermarket Morrisons has applied to build a store on the site.

- ii) **Millennium Hall:** The Vaccination clinic will probably finish at the end of January.

### 7.3 Horsham District Older Peoples Forum



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i) **Public Meetings:** Meeting dates have been arranged with both MPs, Jeremy Quin and Andrew Griffith, and will be held in Lavinia House as well as on Zoom.

ii) **Website:** A young web developer is developing the website.

## **7.4 Horsham in Bloom**

i) **AGM:** This is to take place soon.

ii) **Ideas:** SBr asked what expectations people have of Horsham in Bloom.

DSe commented that the displays in the town are missed.

RB commented that the entrances to Horsham on Warnham Road and Guildford Road are in a poor state and suggested that HiB could cut back the vegetation and plant wildflower seeds. SBr explained that there would be a problem with ongoing maintenance and seeds can't be planted until July.

MW suggested that residents could be involved in looking after verges or other green areas. SBr said that it is difficult to get communities involved and there is quite a lot of work involved in cultivating wild flowers. She added that Pete Crawford/HDC would need to be persuaded and any maintenance and watering would require contracts.

IB praised the planting in the beds in North Street. SBr advised that they are looked after by volunteers from Friends of Horsham Park.

RB commented on the poor stated of the gardens in the Denne Road cemetery.

## **7.5 Horsham Society**

i) **AGM:** This is planned for 27/4/22 at 7.30pm and will take place in The Barn or on Zoom depending on covid rules. Details will be in the February newsletter.

ii) **Conservation areas:** Horsham Society is looking at the Richmond Road conservation area and Norfolk Terrace proposed conservation area with HDC.

iii) **Local List:** This is being looked at in April

iv) **Planning Committee:** New members are sought to join the committee.

v) **Town Walks:** These are to start up again in April 2022 until September, every Wednesday and Sunday starting at 2.30pm outside the Museum.

## **7.6 Friends of Horsham Park**

i) **Rookwood:** There is still concern about future proposals and a need for a proper consultation.

ii) **Tree Mapping:** Rookwood and Horsham Park has been completed but there is still more to do.



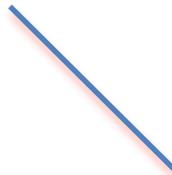
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- iii) **New House Farm:** There is concern that there will be further proposals to develop the site.
- iv) **Formalising of group:** There has been talks of turning the Friends into a formal group with a constitution.
- v) **Ash trees:** Trees have been felled in Lemmington Way and there is no plan to replace them.

**IS TO GIVE !**



**7.7 HTCP Website** - JW said he had given the website a 'spring clean' and would welcome any suggestions. He needs to check how it appears on smart phones as that is now how many people access websites. There have been numerous 'hits' on the Riverside Walk and Bus Map.

## 8. Heritage Trails

The 20 Trails around the Horsham District can be found on the HDC and Horsham Museum websites. RB said there is a need to report back to the Heritage Lottery Fund to show that the money was well spent.

## 9. A.O.B

i) **Riverside Walk:** MW asked if HTCP will still be involved in the planting and maintenance of the walk. DSe confirmed it would.

ii) **Re-wilding Town Centre:** MW asked what amount HDC had available. DSe advised approx. £5k had been allocated to each community group and most of Horsham Town allocation has been spent.

## 8. Next Meeting

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2022 7.30pm via Zoom