

Horsham Denne Neighbourhood Council

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting held on 16th April 2020



Venue: Virtual Meeting held using Zoom

Item	Detail
1	Meeting Opened at 7.00pm and Welcome from the Chair
2	Attendance and apologies for absence: Attending – HDNC: Chair – Trudie Mitchell, Gianni Lozzi, Judy Pounds, Ian Botting, Nigel Hillpaul, Chris Osborne, Rodger Whitefield. HDC Cllrs. Peter Burgess, Ruth Fletcher Clerk – Sara Doy Apologies – HDC Cllrs: Frances Haigh; WSCC Cllr. Nigel Dennis
3	Declaration of Members' Interests TM – Blueprint; IB – Horsham Town Community Partnership; JP – Wimblehurst Road Residents' Association
4	Approval of Reports intended for the cancelled meeting due to be held 19.3.20: It was agreed that the reports be adopted and added as an appendix to these minutes, as proposed by IB and seconded by NH.
5	Matters arising from last reports and Action points Item 6/Review of Planning Compliance Service for HDC: TM received an apology from Barbara Childs regarding the lack of any reference to Neighbourhood Councils in the Review.
6	Chairman's Report <u>Coronavirus:</u> The pandemic has disrupted the lives of everyone and all meetings have been cancelled unless they can be held remotely. We are discovering new ways to communicate – this is HDNC's first attempt at a virtual meeting and we will try to follow our usual agenda. Thanks to Rodger for setting up the system for us. <u>Horsham District Council Operations During Lock Down:</u> The Council has been very proactive in setting up new systems to help people in difficulties. Adam Chalmers was asked for advice

about communicating with HDC and said nearly all managers and staff have been working from home or deployed to other duties.

“For some functions it is business as usual as they can do their jobs remotely e.g. planning, environmental health and building control so if you want to discuss any issues I’d suggest email as normal. Other staff have been redeployed such as the Capitol staff and other functions are stretched like the community teams, housing and revenue and benefits. We can do zoom and skype and core decision making meetings will start to happen remotely shortly too. I think Council towards the end of April is first up”.

HDNC had hoped to meet Darren Worsfold, Neighbourhood Warden Supervisor and Peter Crawford, Parks and Countryside Manager and wondered about a virtual meeting, but AC said that DW is part of the core community team and PC is leading contingency work in parks and countryside so asked that they be given a bit of space for the next few weeks.

AC offered to sort any questions or issues for us, which is much appreciated.

Local Plan Review: The on-line system to respond to the consultation was not user-friendly so an e-mail form was received on request. TM compiled the HDNC response helped by comments from JP and IB; SD then entered the information and submitted our response to HDC. Main comments focussed on reasons for objecting to the proposed Rookwood development but the response covered the whole draft document. The full submission has been circulated to members.

Cllr. Peter Burgess reported that there had been over 5000 comments received, of which approx. 3000 related to the Mayfield site. So it was felt there had been a good response.

Community Buildings Asset Strategy Study: The Cabinet decided on 30th January to commission an independent report in order to assess the current and future needs for community facilities in Horsham Town and the wider district. Clive Burley is leading the study for HDC and sent a draft consultants’ brief for comment.

The HDNC response focuses on the need for the brief to be unbiased and asks for some additional criteria to be included and also queries the proposed time scale.

PB said that the brief has gone out to tender for a consultant.

ACTION: TM to ask Clive Burley to circulate the final brief.

Public Realm Strategy: The document prepared by the consultant detailing emerging proposals was sent at rather short notice to stakeholders: it was circulated to members for comment but only one and SD responded.

TM had attended the initial stakeholder meeting and therefore submitted a response which has been circulated to members. It was pleasing to see that our submission had been forwarded to the consultants so hopefully will be taken into account.

HDC Decisions arising from the Covid19 Emergency: TM referred to the report in the Agenda for the HDC meeting on 22/4/20. It has been circulated to members and gives details of what

	HDC has been doing to deal with the emergency and how much it is likely to cost. PB commented that HDC has approx. £11million in reserves. The forecast is that if the crisis lasts for 6 months it will cost HDC approx. £6million and if it lasts 9 months it will cost £9million. HDC is in a good position compared to some Councils, and there may be financial assistance from the Government. RF advised that Nick Jenkins, HDC Community Development Manager, has sent out various emails to Councillors regarding the Covid19 response but the Neighbourhood Councils have not been included. PB commented that the updates from Nick Jenkins included information regarding volunteers and the Neighbourhood Wardens are helping with community support. ACTION: RF to forward emails from Nick Jenkins to TM. ACTION: TM to contact Nick Jenkins TM added that she was surprised there had been no communication from Glen Chipp, Chief Executive. PB will suggest that Glen Chipp send out a message.
7	Clerk's Report <u>Potential new HDNC members:</u> SD received a response from a resident, who had previously been in contact, to confirm he is still interested in finding out more about the NC once the lockdown is over. <u>Compliance queries</u> <u>33 East Street (old Norsat building):</u> HDC Compliance confirmed that all planning breaches have now been rectified by the owner of the barbers. Namely: 1) Removal of cladding 2) Removal of metal shutters 3) Removal of old Norsat sign above the shop. In addition to this, after seeking advice from our conservation officer, the leaseholder has painted the exterior to replace the previous blue/white so that the building is far more in-keeping with the area. <u>Consultations</u> <u>Use of Body worn video cameras by Civil Enforcement Officers:</u> SD confirmed that HDNC supports the use of the body-worn video cameras providing that relevant legislation and statutory guidance is followed. <u>TRO for Parking Charges in the Horsham District:</u> SD submitted a 'no objection' to the proposed amendments to set new charges for 6-month parking permits (an increase of £2), to allow electronic parking permits to be sold at a future date and to introduce a discount for residents' permits sold for use in low emission vehicles.

	Reports from Members:
8.1	Finance GL provided the following report prior to the meeting: Payments made since 16.3.20: WSCC Clerk's March salary - £320 (paid in previous financial year 2019-20) Function28 Web hosting - £36.00 (paid in the new financial year 2020-21) Balance @ 15.4.20 = £1796.57 HDC Grant: SD confirmed that last year's grant was paid in May. GL advised that there are sufficient funds and it would not be a problem if the grant is paid later. RW queried that as the HDC budget will be affected by the Covid19 crisis, would the HDNC grant still be available. PB confirmed that the HDC budget is safe for 9 months. Income has been lost from the carparks and the temporary closure of the Capitol, and grants have been given to businesses that have had to close to keep them going e.g. hairdressers. Hall Hire: GL commented that HDNC are paying the Church for the Hall despite it being closed for meetings at the moment. ACTION: SD to check arrangements with Church.
8.2	Section 106 and CIL S106 Quarterly Report: There are two reports issued which show Potential and Unspent payments per development and category. TM has submitted a list of questions regarding outstanding contributions on some apparently completed developments and requesting further information on why some funds have been allocated for specific projects without full consultation with HDNC. CIL Consultation: There is also a Quarterly CIL report issued but there is still no date for the consultation on how funds could be spent.
8.3	Planning Norfolk Lodge Care Home DC/20/0576: Members objected to this application and TM had a conversation with the Case Officer who will be contacting the applicant to request further information regarding the party wall and parking arrangements. Park House DC/20/0552: Although some members questioned if expenditure was necessary on a seemingly cosmetic improvement it was noted that the current security entrance arrangement is not user-friendly for any visitors and in particular the design is awkward for wheelchair users.

	<u>Abbeyfield, Hurst Road:</u> JP reported that she had been told that this Residential Home has closed and is to be developed. The plot borders Parkfield and a house that backs onto the plot is interested in an infill development.
8.4	West of Horsham Development Nothing to report.
8.5	Community Services – Youth ACTION: JP will email 4TheYouth to find out if they are still operating in any capacity, and if their mentoring service is still running.
8.6	Community Services – Older People Nothing to report.
8.7	Highways and Transport <u>Gordon Road TRO:</u> There is still a delay as the design included a cycling contra-flow which needs to be fully safety-audited for legal reasons. Additionally the contractor is currently working in single-man units, due to the COVID-19 lockdown; this is creating a works backlog. However an assurance has been given that the scheme has to be completed by the end of September or WSCC would have to incur the costs of re-advertising. <u>Boldings Brook Bridge:</u> The repair has been completed at long last and blends well with the existing structure.
8.8	Communications <u>Coronavirus Updates:</u> Information from HDC, WSCC and various organisations regarding updates has been circulated to members and publicised on the HDNC website and social media.
8.9	Park/Countryside and Leisure Nothing to report.
8.10	Emergency Plan Nothing to report
8.11	Police / Neighbourhood Wardens <u>Neighbourhood Wardens:</u> Messages have been received from Darren Worsfold, Neighbourhood Warden Supervisor and Greg Charman, Health and Wellbeing / Community

	Safety Manager explaining how the Wardens are helping with Community Support in particular making deliveries to the elderly and vulnerable. <u>Neighbourhood Warden's March report:</u> The report was circulated prior to the meeting. There continue to be problems with cannabis smoking and associated drug litter, ASB in the Forum carpark and underage drinking. Incidents of noisy driving have been reported to Operation Crackdown, and IB reported an electric scooter being used on the road. IB said a lack of visibility of Police had been raised at the Crime Commissioner's Focus Group which he attended. The Neighbourhood Wardens are now doing joint patrols with the PCSOs at anti-social behaviour hot spots. <u>Community Support:</u> Due to the Covid19 crisis the Wardens have been assisting vulnerable people in the community. All agreed they are doing an outstanding job. RF queried why the Wardens are delivering prescriptions when there are a lot of local volunteers. TM commented that she is not sure how well the Volunteer Hubs are working as she had registered to be a telephone volunteer but had not heard anything. RF advised that the Horsham Self-Isolation Support Group on Facebook was set up to find volunteers for the Horsham area. HDC may have been overloaded. RW commented that his parents are on the list of vulnerable residents and have received several calls. He had heard that Age UK is short of volunteers. PB added that staff had been allocated areas and cards had been put through vulnerable residents' doors with a number to ring. JP said that Wimblehurst Road residents had set up a support group.
8.12	Town Centre <u>Bench:</u> The bench has been installed in Hills Farm Lane near the Guildford Rd junction.
8.13	HALC /CLC Nothing to report.
9.	HTCP Nothing to report.
10.	Horsham Blueprint Neighbourhood Forum Comments received on the Draft Neighbourhood Plan have been reviewed by the Blueprint Consultant and discussed with the Steering Group at a virtual meeting on 9th April. Some of the comments received are outside the scope of the Neighbourhood Plan and amendments will be made to accommodate other comments.

	It is hoped to have the updated plan ready to submit to HDC by 5th June and at the same time the Blueprint Forum will need to apply for re-designation, as the original 5 year designation will expire on 5th June. This will involve getting approval from Blueprint members at an AGM in May and then applying to HDC for a further 5 year term. This will be dependent on applying for a new tranche of funding from the government to pay the consultant for amending the Plan, but an application cannot be submitted until after 20th April. Even if all goes to time and the Plan is submitted there will be at least a year to wait for the Referendum as no elections can be held until May 2021.
11.	Members' Questions and Comments <u>Proposed Fire Station, Highwood:</u> TM reported that HDNC had received an email from a resident on behalf of his father who lives at Highwood Mill, regarding the proposed Fire Station and Training Centre. TM has offered to discuss the plans with him.
12.	Reports from District and County Councillors HDC Cllr. Peter Burgess: <u>End of Lockdown:</u> PB would like there to be something special to draw people into the town. <u>Future of the Drill Hall:</u> PB queried why consultants are needed to carry out a survey on the district's community halls. <u>St Peter's Hall, Blackbridge Lane:</u> The lease expires on 3/6/20; RAFA, who use the hall are folding, so there will be nowhere for the Armed Forces to meet. Various organisations, including the RNA, Bee Keepers' Association, the Horsham Lions Club and the Royal Legion are trying to form a new combined group. The Hall is the only one available in what is a relatively deprived area. <u>Local Plan:</u> West of Ifield, with 10,000 proposed new homes, is a big contender. The land is owned by a government agency. The target of 14,000 new homes per year is unrealistic. HDC Cllr. Ray Dawe has written to MPs, but HDC will still have to continue with the numbers until November. There is a 5 year land supply with new Developments coming forward. IB asked if HDC has the manpower to go through the 5000 comments submitted. RF commented that the plan needs to be rewritten based on what is deliverable. <u>Council Meetings:</u> These will take place 'virtually' starting next week. <u>Newspaper Deliveries:</u> WSCC issued an edict that young people under the age of 16 should not be employed. This has now been withdrawn. <u>WSCC Highways:</u> Chris Stark has moved to a different area and Horsham has amalgamated with Worthing/Adur.

HDC Cllr. Ruth Fletcher:

(RF circulated her report prior to the meeting).

Policy Development Advisory Groups: These meetings have stopped.

Local Plan: There have been various representations to HDC to delay the Local Plan timetable and/or produce a plan which focuses on sustainability in the likely case that lower housing numbers will be deliverable than the government currently requires.

Committee meetings: The Audit committee went ahead virtually. Decision-making meetings needed to wait for legal relaxations. There was a test run on Zoom for Planning North which, if it is not delayed again from 21st, will be relayed with 'live' (about 20 sec delay) audio and video on YouTube. Public speakers including Neighbourhood Council reps are likely to be allowed to join the meeting in future with an option to have an officer read out their statements.

Burton's Court: HDC are progressing designs for new bin and wheely bin stores for Burton's Court. There are some concerns over the location and the visual impact of the design on the businesses in Park Place.

Highwood exit: The wig wag lights proposed for the fire station exit aren't going to do anything to improve the roundabout for those exiting Highwood by car or crossing the junction on foot or cycle. Clive Burley has passed RF back to the WSCC project manager again and she is awaiting a response.

WSCC Cllr. Nigel Dennis:

(ND emailed a report prior to the meeting which was circulated).

ND reported that there is not much going on at the moment in terms of local matters.

Highway maintenance: This is focusing on safety related issues.

The Regulation, Audit and Accounts committee: A virtual meeting, which ND chairs, took place to discuss the external audit plan. The date for presenting the County Council's accounts (and the County Pension Fund) is likely to be put back two months from the end of July until the end of September.

Elections: It appears there will be no elections of any type until May 2021. Although in the Horsham area no elections were scheduled this year other than the Police Commissioner. It appears that this and any by-elections arising in the meantime will be taken on the date scheduled for the County elections next year.

Council budget meeting: in February, ND spoke of the crumbling bus services in most parts of the County except Crawley/Gatwick. Although the WSCC subsidy is not being reduced at the moment, there is no spare money to step in when operators withdraw commercial services - this has hit a number of routes in Horsham (e.g. afternoon journeys on 51, 65 withdrawn). ND also sent a question to the Cabinet Member, that he was unable to ask at the meeting, regarding the redevelopment of Gatwick Airport railway station which was scheduled to start this summer. The Gatwick Express will be reduced to half hourly ND was concerned that this would lead to overcrowding on Victoria trains with airport passengers, although in the current environment that is not a problem. The work will go on for around two years with two platforms out of action at any given time.

	<u>Blocked gullies:</u> ND reported various locations after the floods in the winter and some of these at least are scheduled for jetting of the gullies (e.g. Hurst Road by Collyer's and near the Royal Mail). <u>Parkfield:</u> Plans have been drawn up to bring Parkfield into the CPZ (it was always rather an anomaly that it was left out but residents were opposed when the scheme first started). There is some other minor tidying up at the same time. This is likely to be delayed however like everything else.
13.	Meeting closed at 8.35pm Next Meeting: 21st May 2020 – to include the AGM.
	Appendix 1 Reports intended for the cancelled meeting due to be held 19.3.20. <u>Chair's Report 19th March 2020</u> <u>Meetings:</u> 03/03/2020 Town Centre Walkabout (see 8.12) 04/03/2020 Town Centre Meeting with Clare Mangan, HDC (see 8.12) 05/03/2020 NC Chairs with Sarah Wilcox, HDC re Publicity (see 8.8) 06/03/2020 Park Walkabout (see 8.9) 11/03/2020 Highwood Residents (see 8.4) 16/03/2020 CLC (see 8.13) <u>Future Meetings:</u> Suspended due to Coronavirus restrictions <u>Coronavirus:</u> Unfortunately the Denne Meeting 19th March had to be cancelled because of concern for members' health and in line with government recommendations. Our clerk will distribute the reports that would have been presented at the meeting. <u>Local Plan Review:</u> The consultation period will still end on 30th March, a response will be submitted on behalf of Denne by TM and SD. Members have been asked to submit comments by 22nd March and to consider all the options put forward and not to concentrate solely on the Denne area. Members are also encouraged to submit personal responses on line. Please note that there is an error in the plan regarding the size of the proposed Rookwood development – HDC has confirmed the combined size of the areas in Denne and Trafalgar is 68 ha. not 39 ha. as stated – this is relevant to comparison densities with other sites. <u>Drill Hall and Highwood Community Centre:</u> There has been no significant update since the last Denne meeting; it is not known if a consultant has been appointed yet to assess the

community assets.

Review of Planning Compliance Service for Horsham District Council: The report compiled by the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) in December was received 9th March and has been circulated to members. A message has been sent to the HDC Executive citing the report as an example of the Neighbourhood Councils being ignored although there are several references to Parish Councils.

Clerk's Report - 19.3.20

Potential new HDNC members: HDNC had a good response to the recent newsletter. Three residents contacted HDNC to express interest in becoming members: one hoped to attend the March meeting, another hopes to attend a future meeting and SD is awaiting a response from the third.

Resident enquiries:

1) Update on Sainsbury's Click and Collect Canopy Light pollution

TM contacted the Manager of Sainsbury's and received the following response:

Engineers will be notified that the lighting of the canopy isn't corresponding to the store opening hours. Apparently the lighting isn't controlled at store level and cabling and timers will need to be investigated. The Manager advised that Click and Collect times can vary at different times of year and the lighting should go off at 22.00 when the store closes. The Manager is unsure how long it will take the engineers to sort out.

Regarding the lack of notification of the original application HDC advised that they are not obligated to consult neighbours, but it is still their usual practice for the Validation Team to check a map and consult the nearest neighbours by post. According to their records a site notice was put up and consultation letters were posted to Mitre Court for the Sainsbury's Click and Collect application. Unfortunately it looks as though the letters were not delivered/received.

Report for JAG meeting 26/2/20 re. Parking issues in Arunside: SD submitted a report for the JAG meeting (which discusses crime and anti-social behaviour issues) regarding the inconsiderate parking and incidents of verbal abuse experienced by residents around school drop off/pick up time.

The response was as follows:

- JAG members recommend the Neighbourhood Council raise a TRO.
- Schools will be encouraged to post one responsible adult at the kerb during drop off/pick up times.
- Neighbourhood Wardens will run a 'school parking week' outside the schools which will involve engaging with parents and suggesting better places to park.
- Members were encouraged to continue to report crime to the Police either by calling 101, by email to 101@sussex.pnn.police.uk, or in an emergency by dialling 999.

Update from HDC Compliance

1) New Orthodontic Practice, East St: The practice is looking to replace the whole window (and frames) for a like-for-like replacement. When the new windows are fitted, the window-film won't be. HDC has said they can wait until the new windows are fitted to rectify the breach. The work is due to be carried out by the end of next month.

2) **3 Denne Road (Zeytin):** The big wooden sign has been removed from above the window. They have also disconnected the gable lights from the power supply so there will be no further illumination.

3) **33 East Street (old Norsat building):** The Barbers is now open and the building is looking really nice, inside and out. The owner still needs to remove the Norsat sign on the wall above the shop and replace the awning (which has Norsat written on it). Both of these things will be completed in the next few weeks.

Pay phone consultation: HDC is undertaking an audit of the old glass phone boxes that are vandalised and no longer used with the aim of getting BT to remove them. TM identified two potential payphones 1) near the bus station, Worthing Road and 2) near the shops on the Needles estate. Both are in a dirty condition but TM asked that the usage be checked first before a decision is made to remove them.

Treasurer's Report – 19.3.20

Payments made since 18.2.20:

11/3/20 Church Hall Hire = £108

29/2/20 JR Print – newsletter = £209

28/2/20 Carnah Events – newsletter delivery = £588

28/2/20 WSCC Clerk's February salary = £320

WSCC Clerk's March salary - £320 (paid in previous financial year 2019-20)

Function28 Web hosting - £36.00 (paid in the new financial year 2020-21)

Balance @ 19.3.20 = £2152.57

Chair's General Reports – 19.3.20

8.2 S106 and CIL

CIL Consultation: Until a Neighbourhood Plan is in place HDC is responsible for spending the neighbourhood portion of CIL in the un-parished area. Following the completion of the consultation on the Local Plan, there will be a consultation with the community to determine infrastructure requirements and projects; the Neighbourhood Councils and Blueprint Forum will be included.

8.3 Planning

There has been a 50% decrease in the number of applications received so far this year.

Thanks to our Tree Officer Andrew Dickinson for continuing to report on applications during
Thanks to our Tree Officer Andrew Dickinson for continuing to report on applications during this difficult time.

8.4 West of Horsham

Highwood Site: Nick Wells has left Berkeley's and the new Site Manager is Adam Stevens who has previously worked at Highwood.

Arun East Bridge road works:

- 1) Landscaping: HDC is still requiring a black metal knee-high rail to prevent unauthorised access and Berkeley's are insistent that this will not provide any more protection than the wooden knee rail already installed. TM agrees that the wooden rail is more in keeping with the green location.
- 2) Hills Farm Lane Belisha Light: A further reminder has been sent, the cowling has been delivered but an electrician has to be contracted by Berkeley's to install the shade.

WSCC Fire Station and Training Centre: The draft plan for this development on the Highwood is out for public consultation and WSCC hope to submit the planning application late Spring. An arrangement had been made for Neil Stocker, WSCC Director of Public Protection and Deputy Chief Fire Officer to attend the HDNC meeting in May, present the plan and answer any questions but this cannot now take place.

- 1) **Exhibition:** HDNC received an invitation to the presentation in Horsham Library on 7th February, TM attended and notes have been circulated. A lot of thought has gone into creating a centre which will be used as an example for other areas; however there are still issues that raise concern, mainly the access onto the A24.
- 2) **Residents' Meeting:** TM was put in contact with the leaders of the Highwood Neighbourhood Watch by HDCllr. Ruth Fletcher and had a very useful meeting on 11th March. TM was able to allay some concerns about the fire station and is now better able to understand the problems faced by residents. An introduction has also been made to a representative from Highwood Mill.
- 3) **Communication with WSCC:** The planning application is an ideal opportunity to signalise the roundabout which is the only access for Highwood residents, because other roads have priority at the junction Highwood residents experience considerable delays. The lane markings and misuse have given rise to several near misses with motorists and the crossing is difficult for pedestrians and other Non-motorised Users (NMUs). Correspondence has taken place with WSCC Highways, Councillor Morwen Millson and WSP traffic consultants to highlight the problem.

8.5 Community Services – Youth

Youth Provision Update March 2020 from Judy Pounds.

The Youth Provision Contract between the NC's and 4TheYouth will be re-newed on April 1st for a further year. Candice Coveney - Youth Liason Officer HDC - is currently working on fine-tuning the details of this and carrying out background checks on the Providers.

It has also been agreed with Candice and NC representatives that quarterly meetings will

continue to take place in April, July, August and January.

JP received an update from 4TheYouth this morning from Paula Lintott - Senior Youth Worker, who reported that due to the Covid19 outbreak, staff shortages have forced them to close 2 clubs to date and expect to close others this week in line with government advice. They are letting young people know that they can receive continued support from their team of experienced youth workers via email and mobile phones. This will be available Monday to Friday, giving the young people an opportunity to ask for advice and support and to have someone to talk to while schools are closed. They will use social media to maintain the 4TheYouth presence and moving forward will follow government advice to look at strategies to re-introduce face to face youth work.

8.6 Community Services – Older People

Older People's Forum: CO attended the meeting on 4th March and her notes have been circulated. The main topics were three presentations on:

OTUS Live in Care – challenges for care Provision.

Tapestry Lunch Club – privately hosted

WSCC Community Drop-in sessions in Horsham - see also 8.11.

8.7 Highways and Transport

Hospital Car Park: The incorrect telephone number for payments on the wall of the hospital was reported; but the response was that HDC is responsible for all signage and has been informed.

Gordon Road TRO: At long last WSCC have produced a drawing which will enable a modified design for “no entry from Wimblehurst Road” to be installed. Discussion is still taking place regarding the possibility to install bollards to protect the two-way cycle lane.

Hills Farm Lane Bollard: The uprooted bollard that was reported on 23rd December has been reported again and was finally repaired this week.

CPZ Changes: HDNC sent a response to the consultation supporting the amendments to the parking restrictions in Blackbridge Lane, Park Terrace West, Denne Parade, and Denne Road. Assuming approval it is not known when the work will take place.

8.8 Communications

Coronavirus Updates: There has been a constant stream of messages from HDC, WSCC and various organisations regarding cancelled events and closures. These have been circulated to members, in particular to RW and NH to publicise on the HDNC website and social media.

Future Contact: On government advice future HDNC meetings are cancelled until further notice. Contact will be maintained by e-mail. Does anyone have any experience of setting up conference calls? How many people can be involved and what equipment is required?

Meeting with HDC: Adam Chalmers arranged for the three Neighbourhood Chairs to meet

Sarah Wilcox, HDC Digital Content Editor to discuss ways to promote the function of the Neighbourhood Councils to the general public. A meeting took place on 5th March and various suggestions were made that require further discussion.

8.9 Park/ Countryside and Leisure

Personnel Changes:

Peter Crawford has joined HDC as Manager of Parks and Leisure.

Stuart Card is transferring to Hop Oast.

Lynda Cheeseman has officially retired but will be working part time in Environmental Health.

Hannah Neale has replaced John Marder.

Park Walkabout: JP and TM attended a meeting on 6th March with HDC representatives and Sally Sanderson from the Friends Group. The main purpose was to agree locations for the installation of recycling waste bins to replace the existing bins and discussion took place on improving the view at the North Parade Car Park entrance. The full notes by JP and TM have been circulated to members.

Ice Rink: TM asked Cllr. Peter Burgess about a rumoured proposal to reintroduce the ice rink into another area in the Park. PB replied that it is a possibility for somewhere in Horsham at some time in the future, but no site or decision has been made as yet; all will be consulted if it does go further.

Café: New owners have taken over the Conservatory Café contract. Its appearance has been transformed and the café which has been renamed Kaya opened on 16th March.

For more information see https://www.picuki.com/profile/kaya_horsham

Information Map: After a request begun by Denne NC in 2013 and chased constantly over more than 6 years information maps were at long last installed in the Park Noticeboards on 25th February.

8.10 Emergency Plan

Nothing to report

8.11 Police / Neighbourhood Wardens

Annual Meeting: The Neighbourhood Wardens were due to attend the Denne meeting together with their Supervisor. As the meeting had to be cancelled they kindly submitted a report on their performance in the last year and also answered some questions which had been submitted prior to the meeting. The report has been circulated to members.

Tent in Mill Bay: TM reported that a tent had been pitched in Mill Bay. The wardens investigated and were able to engage with the owner of the tent and made sure the person was put in touch with available services.

8.12 Town Centre

Town Centre Walkabout 3rd March: JP and TM attended the walk which focussed on Causeway and the area around Sainsbury's; their joint notes have been circulated to members. Official notes from HDC will follow in due course.

Town Centre Meeting 4th March: TM and JP met Clare Mangan for an update on town centre business; discussion concentrated mainly on progress with the BID and the East Street TRO. Full notes have been sent to members and answers to the actions will be circulated when received.

Benches: IB and TM met Stuart Card and Lynda Cheeseman, HDC on 26th February and agreed the location for a bench near the Hills Farm Lane / Guildford Rd junction.

8.13 HALC / CLC

HALC Meetings: Suspended until further notice

HALC Letter to HDC: The amended letter protesting about the requirement for excessive housing numbers was sent 23rd February and has been circulated to members.

CLC Meeting 16th March: TM attended the meeting but there was little of relevance to HDNC. Chris Stark confirmed that the Highways department is being reorganised and he will be moving to an area in the south of the district; it is not yet confirmed who his replacement will be.

The current Balfour Beatty highways maintenance contract ends in 2 weeks and there has been little enthusiasm for repairs in terms of quantity or quality. The new contract is also with Balfour Beatty but has different terms and performance indicators.

9 HTCP

All activities have been suspended including the annual Riverside Walk.

10 Blueprint Neighbourhood Forum

The Draft Neighbourhood Plan is out for 6 weeks' public consultation (Regulation 14) which ends 24th March.

The plan has been promoted by newsletters delivered to all residents in the designated area, in conjunction with the three Neighbourhood Councils.

There has also been a display in a shop window in Swan Walk for the whole consultation period and the shop was open for two weekends allowing residents to see more information and to ask questions. Many thanks to SD and JP for helping man the shop; attendance was good and there was positive interest from the public.

The comments will be collated and any agreed amendments made before the plan is formally submitted to HDC who are responsible for checking the proper legal process has been followed before publicising the plan again to interested parties (Regulation 16) for comment before the independent examination.