

Horsham Blueprint

Christmas Newsletter 2015

“To promote or improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of the un-parished area of Horsham Town”

Welcome to the latest news from Horsham Blueprint, the Business Neighbourhood Forum for Horsham Town.

For those of you who are new to us and to neighbourhood planning, the Forum brings together everyone from across the community to have a say about where housing, shops and businesses can be in our town. **Neighbourhood planning** is a **community right** which allows local residents and businesses to have their own planning policies in a **neighbourhood plan** that reflects their priorities, delivers tangible local benefits and has real weight in planning decisions.

Local people can also grant permission for development through ‘neighbourhood development orders’ and ‘community right to build orders’. Over 100 neighbourhood plans have now passed referendum. Excellent examples are [Winsford](#) and Central Milton Keynes.

Making a Great Plan

How do we make a great plan? Brent Toderian, an international expert on urban planning has come up with a list of 10 key points to follow in this [article](#). He suggests everyone has their own list to help guide their plan, so here is a proposed list for Horsham Blueprint:-

- Create a Plan for **TOMORROW**, not yesterday or today.
- Plan for **OUTCOMES**, rather than timeframes.
- Speak and write **HUMAN**. Don't be boring!
- Every idea **COUNTS**.
- Don't hide the Plan's **BIG IDEAS**. Put them up-front and design around them.
- Design the Plan with **FLEXIBILITY** and **CLARITY**.
- Make the Plan **REAL** and **DELIVERABLE**.
- Involve **EVERYONE**; it's their neighbourhood!
- Be **BOLD** and innovative. The Plan can be a **GAME-CHANGER**.
- Realise the **CATALYTIC** power of a plan and the conversations around it.

Ideas and more ideas!

We are still receiving your ideas on postcards and have been sorting them into categories. We plan to get some summaries of all the ideas to date up on our website in the New Year. Meanwhile, we are posting some of the ideas onto Twitter and Facebook so that everyone has a chance to comment about them. We have also posted a link to SurveyMonkey where you can comment if you'd rather use a computer than a pen!

New this month, we have an advertising campaign running across screens in 10 shops in the town centre. This takes our latest Tweets and displays them so even those who are not on social media, can still find out about us. It is a great scheme which is being used by many local traders to promote their businesses. If you want to use this for your business, get in touch with us for the contact details.

You can also find out about Horsham Blueprint in “**All About Horsham**” as we are in the December issue. Many thanks to the AAH team for finding room for us.

Stickyworld

Our first posting on [Stickyworld](#) was of the Shelley Fountain. Needless to say, this gathered a lot of comments! We have copied the comments from Facebook as well as from Stickyworld itself.

Our second posting was about the “Pocket Park” that is proposed for New Street. Some of you may recall from the last newsletter that there was funding available from the DCLG for Pocket Parks. This site between Brighton Road Baptist Church and Rehoboth Baptist Church was suggested as somewhere that needed attention. Led by Evan Giles of HDC and by Horsham in Bloom, a team from across the community worked on the bid in an excellent example of what can happen when we all pull together. The bid has been submitted and we have every hope that this will be successful.

We have also been asked by Michael Walker to look at what can be done with land at the junction of Blackbridge Lane and Middleton Road. We have contacted Denne NC and Horsham Town Community Partnership about this site. Many of the green spaces in the town are listed in a report from the Horsham Society and we will be using this as a key document in our evidence base.

Working Groups

These are starting work but we still need more of you to come forward and be involved. If you have any expertise that will help us or an interest in shaping the town, please get in touch.

Inspiration

One of the great things about neighbourhood planning is finding out what is being done elsewhere and wondering not only “could we do that?” but “how do we do that?” The “how” is answered by Jason Roberts' fantastic speech at [#Locality15](#) on how one person can make a difference to their neighbourhood youtu.be/8NpYcoWDV1A. If that doesn't inspire you to get out there and do something in your neighbourhood, I don't know what will!

His organisation, Better Block is here <http://betterblock.org/> and there are some useful downloads. So if you have any ideas of what you want to see in your neighbourhood, follow his tips and get started!

More inspiring ideas are from the Transition Network: <https://cop21.transitionnetwork.org/>.

This is a long read but there are some fantastic projects here, everything from transition streets to a local entrepreneur forum.

One of the themes for our neighbourhood plan is how to help Horsham become an **Age Friendly Town**. There are many examples from across the world of how this can be done. The RTPI have a briefing [here](#) and there is an important guide [here](#) about how we could look at housing the ageing population.

Finally, a community project from the Charity Bank (charitybank.org) which gives children somewhere to “hang out” safely.

“We love a can-do attitude - take a look at our 60 sec video of the month for [#inspiration](#): bit.ly/1RGvS8o pic.twitter.com/ryroORhMDy”

Wishing a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us to all of you at Horsham Blueprint.

Best wishes

Frances