

## Horsham Blueprint Neighbourhood Forum

### Hello Everyone

Firstly, my apologies for the long delay with getting in touch with you. We have been resolving some questions with HDC, but we think now we should be able to move forward at last!

### Designation

Following the consultation that took place in the autumn, HDC decided that there should be a stronger voice for businesses in the neighbourhood plan. They refused to designate the area we had requested other than as a business area. Alternatively, we could have a doughnut area excluding the town centre. The difference with a business area is that there have to be two referenda, one for residents and one for businesses. We took advice from neighbourhood planning experts and we asked Brandon Lewis, Minister at the Department for Communities and Local Government, to help resolve the situation. I stress that there is no other difference between the processes that have to be followed. Whether the area is a business area or not, businesses have to be included in the process of preparing a plan and we have always understood that and have been actively engaging with businesses.

HDC has the right to determine whether an area is wholly or predominantly business in nature, and they decided that the whole un-parished area meets the criteria, although there was some confusion about the size of our area. They stated that the town centre is 0.4 hectares and that this is 22 % of our area, making our area 1.93 hectares. In fact, the town centre is 39 hectares, 3.3% of our total area of 1170.63 hectares. Even 22% does not seem a fair justification for being “wholly or predominantly business in nature”, and 3.3% certainly does not! However, we have no redress against their decision and have had to accept it, which we have now done.

The good news is that they were supportive of the application for the Forum and were pleased that it is representative of the area. We now await official confirmation of both designations.

### Annual General Meeting

It is just over a year since we had our Inaugural General Meeting. So we hereby give Notice that our First Annual General Meeting will be held at 10am on Saturday 6th June at the Worship Hall, Salvation Army Centre, Booth Way, Horsham. The agenda and papers are on our [website](#).

We do hope that as many of you as possible will be able to attend. We need to be quorate so that we can pass the resolutions. In addition, we are looking for new members to join the Steering Group and to help with the work of getting the neighbourhood plan finally underway!

Thanks to all of you who have been patiently bearing with us and who have helped us to get to this stage. It will be well worth it when we can say that we have a neighbourhood plan for Horsham Town.

## Other Neighbourhoods

Good progress with neighbourhood planning is being made in the parished areas.

- Nuthurst Parish Neighbourhood Plan has now gone for Examination
- Southwater Parish has been running a Parish Survey.
- Pulborough have been making good progress and have some initial reports here <http://www.pulboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplan.php>

## Inspiration

Many of you liked the ideas that were in the December newsletter – particularly the Snow Angels! More inspiration may be found below.

- ❖ Those of you who are worried about traffic problems in the New Street, Trafalgar or Norfolk Road neighbourhoods may find some food for thought here.

[http://www.ted.com/talks/jeff\\_speck\\_the\\_walkable\\_city?language=en](http://www.ted.com/talks/jeff_speck_the_walkable_city?language=en)

- ❖ Excellent regeneration work by young architects here

<http://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/architecture-design-blog/2015/may/12/assemble-turner-prize-2015-wildcard-how-the-young-architecture-crew-assemble-rocked-the-art-world>

- ❖ In North Horsham they are trying to save The Fountain pub from demolition. Buildings like this can be listed as **assets of community value** so that the community has a chance to try to save it.

<http://mycommunity.org.uk/programme/community-assets/>

<http://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2015/apr/18/villages-saving-endangered-pubs-fancy-drink-our-local>

<http://www.pubisthehub.org.uk/>

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/the-northerner/2015/may/10/otleys-pubs-saved-from-last-orders>

- ❖ Ideas for economic development:  
There is some fantastic work being done in **Nottingham**.  
<http://www.creativequarter.com/about/>

And in **Ireland** to help food producers  
<http://www.thefoodpod.co.uk/>

In Brighton, the **Fruit Factory** shows what great results can be achieved when communities pull together! They have raised money to build a factory to make jams and juices from local produce.

<https://brightonpermaculture.org.uk/orchards/scrumping>

To put this into perspective, Forest Neighbourhood Council hopes to have new sports changing facilities on Bennetts Field. Two of the schemes proposed by HDC cost an eye-watering £500k and £750k. Come on HDC – you can do better than that!

### Events

During the spring we undertook some work with **Hack Horsham** and **Tanbridge House School** on developing Horsham as a Digital Hub. We worked with schoolchildren to redesign Horsham using Minecraft, which is like computer Lego. We talked about Queen Street to give them a starting point and they had some wonderful ideas of what they would like to see, including solar farms, more play areas and gardens, and transparent offices so they could see if the adults were actually working!

<http://www.wscountytimes.co.uk/news/local/video-young-architects-use-minecraft-to-design-horsham-of-the-future-1-6537690>

We are attending a business breakfast at Tanbridge House School in June for local companies working in tech businesses. This is fully booked and we hope will lead to lots of new ideas and collaborative working between schools, businesses and the community.

<http://www.tanbridge-house-sch.co.uk/events/business-breakfast-networking>

We have joined up with **Sprungdigi** <http://www.sprungdigi.com/> who have also done some work on designing Horsham in their project here <http://www.sprungdigi.com/community/our-place-workshop-at-geii/>

Do watch for their amazing **Digital Arts Festival** on 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> July, in the run up to **Sparks in the Park**. This will be a first for Horsham. We are hoping to do some work with Sprungdigi around life in Horsham as part of our planning process.

Our website is a tad out of date at present, but we will be updating it shortly. For the latest information about us and the world of neighbourhood planning, you can always follow us on Twitter [@BlueprintNF](#) or Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/horshamblueprint>

If you have any ideas or want to be more involved, do get in touch – this is your Forum!

Best wishes

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Chair

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