# **DENNE NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL**



# Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at 7.00 p.m.

The Church Lounge, London Road Methodist Church, London Road, Horsham.

Item	Detail
1	Meeting Open and Welcome from the Chairman
	Meeting opened 19.00 by Trudie Mitchell
1.1	PCSO Report
	Report from PCSO Charlene Parsons:
	Police are aware of two homeless men living rough in the Boulevard area of the Highwood development. As they are not causing problems, the Police are not able to do anything. However one of the men was assaulted by a group of youths, which the Police are dealing with.
	A shoplifter was caught in the town who turned out to be a drug dealer.
	The Ark, which sheltered the homeless, has closed – not sure what is happening to its users.
	More businesses and shops are obtaining radios which provide a quicker link to the Police than dialling 999. Operation Tinsel will take place leading up to Christmas. Shoplifters are known to target card shops in this period. PCSOs will have purse bells available to hand out to members of the public, which have proved very popular.
	Operation Magpie – PCSOs will be in Swan Walk next week to make the public more aware, with evenings getting darker earlier, of ways to deter burglars e.g. timer switches.
	A new Neighbourhood Watch Scheme has been set up in Blackbridge Lane which is encouraging.
	IB enquired about an article in the local paper recently regarding youths using 'laughing gas'. PCSO Parsons explained that youths are buying aerosols of products such as whipped cream and spraying into their mouths to obtain a 'high'. Police are trying to raise awareness of the danger of this i.e it can freeze the throat and cause suffocation, but they know that is a phase that a lot of youths go through.
	TM asked what is the best way to contact the PCSOs as she left a message for Andy Reed

which was not responded to. PCSO Parsons said she will speak to Andy Reed, but the best email address is horshamtownpt@sussex.pnn.police.uk email as this is looked at by all the PCSOs.

It was confirmed that the number of PCSOs in West Sussex will be reduced by 132; mostly by natural wastage.

#### **Presentation by Sally Pavey of CAGNE**

CAGNE (Communities against Gatwick Noise and Emissions) was formed in February 2014 because of concerns over changes to flight paths out of Gatwick. The committee includes aviation experts, engineers and solicitors and is supported by 10 parish councils, GACC (Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign) and a considerable number of West Sussex residents. The presentation focused on the new flight paths rather than the proposed second runway.

CAGNE is in contact with many organisations including the CAA (Civil Aviation Authority) and Department for Transport, pressure groups for other areas, local MPs and Councillors, and has had meetings with the government. They are meeting with the Aviation Minister shortly.

SP explained that the height of Gatwick flight paths is determined by Heathrow, which has priority i.e. Gatwick aeroplanes have to fly lower. She also talked about the wider 'noise shadow' caused by flight paths, not just affecting residents directly below them. CAGNE are opposed to the high concentration of flight paths, which creates constant noise over specific areas, and are seeking more 'dispersal' of flights which would reduce disturbance. CAGNE also wants the arrival flight path rerouted further south to avoid areas of population including Billingshurst.

SP advised that anyone can complain by phoning or emailing the Airport Noise Line. They should leave a name, postcode, date, time and reason. However only one complaint per person per day is counted.

CAGNE, although self-funded, is looking for further moral support to ensure the voice of residents is included in future consultations and decisions. Further information can be found on http://www.cagne.org/

ACTION: TM/ SD to send out memo to members asking for agreement to support CAGNE.

2<sup>nd</sup> ACTION: TM/ SD to send letter of support to CAGNE if agreed.

## Presentation by Frances Haigh of Horsham Blueprint Neighbourhood Forum

**1.3** See also item 10.

Horsham Blueprint Neighbourhood Forum was set up to create a Neighbourhood Plan for the

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un-parished area of Horsham. Its main aim is to promote or improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of the town and gives the whole community, including residents and businesses more of a say in the development of the area. It is supported by the three Neighbourhood Councils, and other organisations including Horsham Unlimited, The Horsham Society, HTCP, Horsham in Bloom and the Horsham Cycling Forum.

Creating the Neighbourhood Plan first involves consultation with as many people, local organisations and businesses as possible; followed by a survey to clarify proposals. FH has eventually obtained a list of businesses from HDC, in order to make them aware of the Forum and ask for feedback. One of the main ways of identifying what is needed is by carrying out 'place checks' such as the one carried out in Queen Street. People can also help by talking to their neighbours, sending in ideas, joining a working group or the steering group.

FH aims to have the plan completed by Christmas 2016. She believes that HDC will benefit from the communication Blueprint is building up with businesses.

Cllr Skipp commented that there could be a potential conflict with HDC and their planning framework. He also thought that a large number of people would need to be involved, and questioned where the NCs stand i.e. people might say that NCs should come together and form a Town Council. Frances stated that the Forum is only set up for 5 years and could then convert more easily to a Town Council structure. TM commented that Horsham Blueprint complements the NCs.

#### Attendance and apologies for absence:

Attending – DNC: Trudie Mitchell, Ian Botting, Jane Apostolou, Gianni Lozzi, Judy Pounds,

Sara Doy (Clerk).

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HDC Cllr: David Skipp (arrived 19.30); WSCC Cllrs: David Sheldon (arrived 20.00)

PCSOs: Adrian Bell and Charlene Parsons (left 19.15)

Apologies – DNC Cllrs Nigel Hillpaul, Martin Bruton; HDC Cllrs Tony Hogben, Adrian Lee,

Peter Burgess; WSCC Cllr: Nigel Dennis

#### **Declaration of Members' Interests**

Trudie Mitchell – Horsham Blueprint; Jane Apostolou - HTCP

#### Approval of Minutes from last meeting (17.09.2015).

Approved by GL, seconded by IB.

#### Matters arising from last meeting and Action points

None

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#### 6 Chairman's Report

# **Meetings attended**

22/09/2015 HAMSVA AGM

23/09/2015 S106 Meeting (see 8.2)

25/09/2015 NC Chairs and Jeremy Quin M.P.

28/09/2015 Highwood Community Centre (see 8.4)

29/09/2015 and 02/10/2015 Meetings with HDC Councillors re Highwood South Access Road (see8.4)

30/09/2015 Subway meeting - cancelled

30/09/2015 West of Horsham Site Visit (see 8.4)

01/10/2015 Town Walkabout - cancelled

01/10/2015 BJUG AGM (report circulated)

09/10/2015 Bruce Dowson re Hadman's Close (see 8.3)

12/10/2015 Urban Green Space

#### **Future Meetings**

31/10/2015 HALC Conference (IB attending)

02/11/2015 Urban Green Space

#### **HAMSVA AGM**

HAMSVA were very helpful in our search for a Clerk. TM was invited to attend the AGM to support the amalgamation of the Horsham and Mid Sussex branches.

#### **Jeremy Quin Meeting**

The three Neighbourhood Chairs had a meeting with Jeremy Quin M.P. The main focus was to explain the role of Neighbourhood Councils in comparison to Parish Councils and to make JQ aware of the problems we face because of lack of recognition by Government.

The prime example discussed was Neighbourhood Planning and the difficulties encountered in

setting up Horsham Blueprint and getting funding. JQ queried the value of a Neighbourhood Plan for our area as it is already heavily developed but recognised the need to protect green spaces and the opportunities to redevelop areas such as Hurst Road.

Conversation also touched on housing needs, infrastructure shortfall and Gatwick expansion.

He was interested and sympathetic but unlikely to give any practical assistance.

#### Memorandum of Understanding with HDC

At the meeting between the Neighbourhood Chairs and Tom Crowley, CEO of HDC, on 10<sup>th</sup> August TC agreed to produce a draft update of the MoU. The revised document has now gone back to TC to discuss further amendments.

#### **Change of Name**

At the same meeting a request was made by the NC Chairs to add Horsham as a prefix to their names. This has now been approved by the legal department and will be put to the full Council on 21<sup>st</sup> October for agreement.

# 7 Clerk's Report

SD said that she was hoping to attend the SSALC New Clerks' Training Day on 29.10.15. She is waiting to hear from them as to whether it can be booked at the member's rate of £87.50, as opposed to the non-member rate of £131.25, as Denne NC has been treated the same as members in the past.

SD requested that all members try to respond to emails where requested. She will make it clear in future which emails need a response.

SD is progressing with the Planning Spreadsheet and hopes to produce a complete record of planning applications, deadlines and decisions for 2015. She is waiting to hear from Manny Singh / HDC Planning Dept. as to when she and TM can visit his department to see their way of working and discuss any problems.

SD advised that it is possible to borrow equipment from HAMSVA e.g. laptop and projector, as used for this evening's presentations.

#### **8** Reports from Members:

#### 8.1 Finance

From last NatWest Statement Balance at 25.09.15 = £6690.34

Payment outstanding to make to W.S.C.C for Clerk wages – August 2015 = £189.68

Payment to make to W.S.C.C for Clerk wages – September 2015 = £158.67

#### 8.2 | Section 106

TM and JA attended a meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> September at HDC with Melanie Stowell and Anna Chapman to clarify the amount of S106 money available for projects in the Denne area and specifically what could be allocated to the Riverside Walk. There is a need to try to safeguard funds for other projects that are on the Denne "wish list".

AC said it may be possible to put in applications for projects prior to the full details of work required being determined – this would ring fence the money.

Debbie Mallard is the project officer for Open Spaces but she is currently working on projects for Southwater Country Park, Warnham Nature Reserve and Play Areas. Sharon Norman is assisting on the project for the North Parade entrance to Horsham Park and this application may be ready for consultation in November.

Panel Obligation Panel meets every two months with the next meeting in December.

#### **Completion Memos**

TM queried the complexity of the information sent by HDC and requested a brief summary of the purpose of any variations and the funds allocated.

#### 8.3 Planning

HDC Offices: DC/15/1449

DNC has objected again to the revised plans which still do not clarify the access and parking arrangements.

14, Market Square: DC/15/1970

The objection is still due to the lack of information to satisfy the Environmental Health Office and DNC's concerns, with regard to noise and smells from Bill's restaurant.

Hadman's Close (the felling of 3 trees): DC/15/2135

DNC has objected as DNC Tree Warden, Andrew Dickinson has said there is no valid reason to fell the trees. The land, whilst used by the public as open space is private. This could be suitable for inclusion as an open public space or similar under the Neighbourhood Plan. TM has met with the brother of the applicant who has said that they are drawing up plans to submit a planning application for a private dwelling on the land.

The applicant for Hadman's Close is the same person responsible for the Press House

conversion at 14, Market Square to which Denne has objected (see above).

#### 8.4 West of Horsham Development

Site Visit: See circulated report for 30<sup>th</sup> September

<u>Boldings Brook Bridge:</u> The proposed planting under the bridge has been costed at £2,300 but Berkeley's will only provide £1,000. There is no money available from HDC so Janet Fraser, Hills Farm Conservation Group is investigating possible sources for grants.

<u>Path west of Boldings Brook:</u> The missing section of the path south of the Boulevard Bridge is being installed but this involves taking out some thriving shrubs.

Planning Applications:

Public Art: DC/15/1876 Permitted

<u>Southern Site Phase 2: DC/15/1702</u> There has been no answer yet to the questions raised in our objection 26<sup>th</sup> August.

<u>Southern Access Road: DC/15/1826</u> Objections have been submitted regarding the location of the bridge which differs from the masterplan and involves the removal of several prime trees. DNC has also objected to the design of the junction with Hills Farm Lane, because of danger to pedestrians unless further traffic calming is installed in Hills Farm Lane; no physical barrier to private vehicle access and vulnerability to traveller camps. TM wrote to Paul Addison at WSCC Highways and a site visit is to be arranged with the Case Officer, Paul Addison, HDC and WSCC Councillors, Berkeley's and DNC.

<u>Allotments: DC/15/1794</u> Questions have been submitted regarding the unusually small size of the proposed plots.

<u>Community Centre</u>; Trevor Beadle invited TM to a briefing on preliminary ideas for the Community Centre. DNC members including JA did a lot of work at the Masterplan stage regarding what was required; some of the ideas are still relevant but the world has changed since 2009. The proposals for the Broadbridge Heath Leisure Centre need to be taken into account as there is no point in duplicating facilities and demand for football pitch use have changed. Also shopping habits have altered so there may be no need for a shop on site.

One of the main considerations is who will manage the building; there has been an approach from the Christian Life Centre who wish to use the building as a church, but this raises many questions about the ethos and suitability of the organisation. Various other groups such as Scouts have indicated they would like provision in the hall.

Much more investigation needs to be done regarding the design of the building and car

parking.

DNC will need a sub-committee for this project. Meanwhile TB has suggested that he, TM and JA should visit some good examples of Community buildings e.g. Littlehampton.

Cllr. Sheldon advised that Horsham Matters had expressed interest in running the centre, with the intention of letting the community use it during the week and using it for religious purposes on a Sunday. He feels that if it was owned by an independent organisation it could become a better maintained facility than if run by the council; it would also enable match funding applications.

He is not sure if the original money allocated to it is still available.

TM highlighted the problem of access to the centre, which will not be accessible by private vehicle from Hills Farm Lane. This is contrary to the original aim to improve community cohesion. There is also no clarification yet on the size of the building and what amount of money has been 'ring fenced' for it.

## 8.5 Community Services – Youth

JP is attending the next Horsham Youth Provision Meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> October. The need for admin support was raised at the previous meeting. JP will do a report on the July and October meetings for the next DNC meeting.

#### 8.6 Community Services – Horsham District Older Peoples Forum

A report was circulated prior to the meeting. The main points were:

MB had contacted all the Horsham District Parish and Neighbourhood Councils on the 27<sup>th</sup> August to ask if they would consider appointing a person as an 'Older Peoples' Champion' to support the Forum by attending meetings. There was a very poor response of only 3 PCs out of 35.

#### 8.7 Highways and Transport

New WSCC Highways Structure: TM is arranging a meeting with Seb Willemsen

<u>Wimblehurst Road:</u> WRRA has requested that DNC contact Chris Stark to support the proposed measures for traffic calming. DNC will write in support once WRRA have submitted their letter.

<u>Hospital Car Park:</u> Discussions took place with Stuart Slater, HDC who is responsible for the management of the Hospital Car Park. The problems caused by vehicles blocking the entrance were explained and he has agreed to put up no waiting signs as used in the Denne Road Car Park. He will also consider surface markings indicating a "Keep Clear" area.

JP commented that the problem with the carpark being so busy first thing in the morning could be because of the new ticket system for blood tests which has replaced the appointment system. Also drivers are waiting in cars for outpatients to return. Cllr. Sheldon advised that there are plans to extend the blood test clinic opening hours to 4pm which should help to alleviate the problem.

#### LSTF Cycle Route

The Cycle Forum organised a test ride from Forest School to Broadbridge Heath on 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

Cllr. Skipp cycled the route and overall found it a safer. He commented that signs are not good in some areas; the route goes the wrong way round the Carfax; cyclists should not cycle through the railway underpass (safer to dismount and walk) and there is no obvious link to the Downs Link.

TM felt that the test ride went in the wrong direction as it did not highlight the problem of speeding downhill on the Twitten between the A24 & Boldings Brook. DNC had already asked Cllr. David Sheldon to progress our request for chicane barriers on this section as it is especially dangerous in the NEAP area. DS responded that chicanes would not be possible, but he is looking into the possibility of signs to warn cyclists.

DNC will respond to the snagging list request even though our views may not be welcomed by the Cycle Forum.

ACTION: TM and SD to send comments to the Cycle Forum.

#### 8.8 Communications

<u>Riverside Notice Board:</u> The Aldingbourne Trust is unwilling to repair the board and in any case the transport logistics are too difficult. TM has contacted a local carpenter for an opinion on the board and estimate for repair or replacement.

<u>Domain Name:</u> MB had contacted Data Centa regarding the possibility of acquiring a ".gov.uk" domain name as it would give us more apparent authority. The initial response was that we are not eligible, but we have since been told that recent changes to the Local government: naming and registering websites guidance, mean we should be able to apply for the name. However MB needs to fully investigate costs and what services are included.

<u>Highwood Leaflet:</u> TM has asked Berkeley's if they could distribute a leaflet to residents introducing the Neighbourhood Councils and Blueprint and asking for volunteers.

#### 8.9 Park/Countryside and Leisure

Urban Green Space Maintenance: Progress is being made in identifying areas and tasks that

would benefit from having a volunteer work force. See circulated report for details.

<u>Horsham Park:</u> There have been reports of overgrown vegetation, litter, rats and bad smells from the pond. A site visit with Evan Giles, JA and TM has been arranged for 26<sup>th</sup> October.

#### 8.10 | Emergency Plan

Regarding the email about the government consultation on closer working between the emergency services, IB had previously commented that he found it hard to understand how the Police and Crime Commissioners could effectively take on the duties of the fire and rescue authorities. Cllr. Sheldon suggested that IB look at the WSCC website under 'executive decisions' as there is a similar comment.

#### 8.11 Police

See earlier report from PCSOs under item 1.1

#### 8.12 Town Centre

<u>Orchard Surgery Access</u>: Cllr.Sheldon confirmed that the entrance would stay in the same place but there would be a new more gradual curved slope up to it. The planter will have to be removed. There will be a temporary access through the library while the work is being carried out.

<u>A Boards:</u> Garry Mortimer-Cook has written to businesses asking them to conform to licensing regulations or remove unlicensed boards.

#### 8.13 HALC /CLC

<u>CLC Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> September</u>: See report from IB circulated prior to the meeting. The main points were:

Police: An increase in incidents of criminal damage, but a general reduction in offences.

Operations to tackle anti-social behaviour are being carried out.

Significant cuts are expected in the Police and the number of PCSOs is under review.

Mental health nurses are being assigned to PCs as appropriate and this is having a beneficial effect.

Cycling: The Cycling Forum has raised concerns over new developments and the lack of consultation. They are seeking a meeting with HDC and WSCC. They aired criticism over the location, ease of operation, and safety of the new cycle racks.

Warnham Traffic Calming: Warnham PC are requesting approval for a traffic calming scheme in Friday Street, which has high local support and the PC will fund the project.

#### 9. HTCP

A report was circulated by JA prior to the meeting. The main points were:

#### Riverside Walk Project Stage 2:

The Overall Strategy document and Terms of Reference documents for each of the four work package sections of Stage 2 have been completed (Route and Surface Improvements, Heritage and Education, Health and Well Being, Improving Biodiversity and Ecology). Investigations for funding sources are taking place.

The design of an improved information leaflet on the Riverside Walk route is well underway. Re-routing of the Riverside Walk over the Wimlands Road level crossing is being considered as this provides a safer crossing point on the A264.

#### Proposed North of Horsham Development:

A letter has been sent to the HDC Strategic Planning Dept. about linking the Riverside Walk into the proposed development.

#### Memorandum of Understanding:

The M of U between HTCP and the Horsham Neighbourhood Councils together with North Horsham Parish Council is due for review. A draft updated version of the M of U is being distributed to these member organisations for their consideration.

#### Horsham Rural Towns Forum:

Currently HDC are working with HRTF to submit an initial bid to EAFRD for funds to develop the tourism offer across the area covered by the Horsham rural market towns.

#### 10. Horsham Blueprint Neighbourhood Forum

#### **Community Engagement**

Sub groups are concentrating on various aspects such as schools, businesses and older people.

Blueprint had a stand at the Age UK "Older Persons Day" on 1<sup>st</sup> October.

FH has close links with the Digital Hub, which is a key element of Blueprint's economic strategy.

There will be a concentrated marketing campaign soon with posters, drink mats and post cards asking for ideas. These will be in the town centre and at strategic locations such as churches and doctors' surgeries. There will also be articles in the press.

#### Communication

Website: David Jessop has agreed to improve the website based on the Highgate example.

Mail Box address: This has been provided free of charge by MBE Horsham.

Freepost costs are to be investigated.

The cost of a postal survey as done by Southwater PC could reach £30,000 which is impossible to fund. Blueprint is likely to use on line systems such as Survey Monkey and Stickyworld.

#### Evidence and Writing the plan

Help is needed with data collection and FH asked if any of the NC Clerks could help, she will produce a task specification.

#### **Funding**

Blueprint can apply for £8,000 in tranches from government and has an application in preparation for £5,000.

#### 11. Members' Questions and Comments

Albion Way crossing: IB expressed concern regarding the new Albion Way pedestrian crossing, following complaints from residents, due to there being no audible signal when it is safe to cross and the pedestrian crossing signs are only at waist height. Cllr. Sheldon responded that dual crossings never have an audible signal and the waist height pedestrian crossing signals are the new standard height, so as to be clearly visible to wheel chair users and children. It may be worth asking if a "seconds' countdown" could be incorporated so people can better judge time available to cross.

<u>Hurst Rd/North Parade Junction:</u> TM has reported that the traffic lights are sometimes missing the sequence for turning right into Hurst Road.

<u>Communications Survey from HDC:</u> Natalie Brahma-Pearl/HDC has sent a survey regarding communications between PCs, NCs and HDC. TM requested members to send her any comments so that DNC can send in a response.

ACTION: Members to respond to TM

ACTION: TM to respond to HDC

#### 12. Reports from County and District Councillors

**HDC Cllr. Adrian Lee:** Submitted a report prior to the meeting.

<u>Vagrants on land neighbouring Berkeley Homes 'Highwood' development</u>: they are continuing to cause a nuisance e.g evidence of fires being lit, rough sleeping and soiling of the locale. (See

also 1.1).

Horsham Development Planning Framework: this was formally approved by the Planning Inspector on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015. It is proposed to hold an extraordinary meeting of the full Council on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2015 to formally adopt the HDPF. Once this is completed, there will be a different set of criteria for dealing with future planning applications and District Councillors are due to be briefed on these change. Cllr Lee will provide further information when he has it.

#### **HDC Cllr. David Skipp:**

North Point development: this is coming up at the next planning committee in November.

Harwood's Garage: there is an application for change of use (DNC has already objected).

<u>Horsham Park</u>: there have been complaints that some areas are looking unkempt, and grass clippings are not being picked up.

<u>West Street</u>: Horsham Society is meeting with Ray Dawe to voice their concerns about the enhancement scheme & subsequent appearance of the area. He feels strongly that this area needs tackling, particularly as there is no longer a Cabinet Member for the town. TM advised that the town walkabouts have been stopped and Jonathan Chowen is covering the Quarterly meetings with the NCs since Cllr Helena Croft departed. DNC would want to be involved in any future discussions regarding West Street.

#### WSCC Cllr. David Sheldon:

See earlier comments.

# 13. Meeting closed 21.40

Date of next meeting: 10<sup>th</sup> December 2015