Horsham Blueprint Business Neighbourhood Forum *DRAFT No.4 - 07/01/2024*

Notes of Steering Group Meeting held on Tuesday 24th October 2023.

Attendees : John Steele, Trudie Mitchell, Diane Sumpter, Ruth Fletcher, Graham Sitton, Francis Vernon, Andrew Cooke, John White, Ron Bates and Malcolm Gilbert attended as an observer. Everyone arrived at the Blackbridge Community Centre for 7.30pm but the entrance door key was not in the secure key box.

It was agreed to transfer the meeting to the Capitol Theatre Foyer.

Apologies were received from - Morag Warrack & Graham Sitton.

The discussion started at 8.00 pm

1.0 Welcome

1,1 - John Steele opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and apologised for the late change of venue and that the agenda for the meeting issued to everyone will be followed.

1.2 - As no communication had been received from Sue Brundish; John Steele asked that Ron Bates email Sue Brundish to ask her intentions with regard to Blueprint Steering Group.

2.0 Notes of Last Meeting.

2.1 - The notes of the meeting held on the 14th August 2023 were approved by all present who attended that meeting and there were no matters arising that are not covered by the meeting agenda.

3.0 Report on the AGM held on 19th September 2023 and Matters Arising

3.1 - It was agreed that Ron Bates should email Tim Morris to thank him for attending the AGM and for preparing and giving his presentation on Horsham Green Spaces which was well received. Blueprint looks forward to working closely together in the near future on protecting Horsham's green spaces.

4.0 Horsham District Council administrative issues

4.1 - Diane Sumpter verbally presented the treasurer's report giving the balances of £317.51 on Blueprint's accounts and £9.82 on Blueprint's a/c through HTCP.

4.2 - The request by Blueprint to HDC for the £500 to cover administration costs, similar to that given to other civic groups, has been registered for the year April 2024 - March 2025, Diane Sumpter will keep in contact with HDC.

4.3 - The request by Blueprint to HDC for a possible £800 to specific Blueprint projects for the year April 2024 - March 2025, such as creating a new website and similar to that available to other civic groups, will be followed up by Diane Sumpter.

4.4 - It is thought that the CIL governance procedures may soon be available from HDC.

5.0 Update on Planning Issues

5.1 - The Blueprint comments on the proposed YMCA 3G Pitch were not included in the HDC Planning Officer's report to the councillors. Blueprint raised this with HDC, who apologised, but did mention this omission at the beginning of the Planning Meeting. HDC have confirmed that Blueprint comments should be included in future planning reports.

5.2 - It is expected that the HDC's Regulation 19 Draft Local Plan should be published on the 11th December 2023. Blueprint will make comments once the Local Plan is published.

5.3 - The Levelling-Up and Regeneration Bill which includes changes in planning law including CIL is currently in the House of Lords.

6.0 Update from Horsham Town Community Partnership

6.1 - The proposal by HTCP to extend the Riverside Walk through Rookwood Golf Course has been followed up with discussions between the leaseholders of Rookwood Golf Course and HDC. We await to learn the outcome of these discussions.

7.00 Update from Horsham BID

7.1 - The Horsham BID referendum is due to take place during November 2023 with the outcome known on the 1st December 2023. Their 5 year Business Plan can be viewed on their website. Rachel Noel is the BID contact.

7.2 - There are about 380 no. businesses involved with two third of these being retail businesses. There is a plain, Yes or No vote which also needs a majority by rateable value.

7.3 - If the referendum confirms a 'yes' vote then an annual levy will be charged to all businesses and the businesses will agree on what to spend the money, which must be supplementary to what HDC is already doing.

8.0 Process for taking forward the Blueprint Plan Non-Policy Actions

8.1 - The residents in the unparished area of Horsham voted for the Neighbourhood Plan and Blueprint Steering Group needs to make known how the Plan is progressing, including progress on the Non-Policy Actions.

8.2 - The Horsham Society is progressing with the Local List in conjunction with HDC.

8.3 - The Horsham Society is progressing the recording of the Twittens in Horsham Town with Malcolm Willis taking over the lead from Nigel Friswell.

8.4 - Protecting Horsham Park is led by Friends of Horsham Park and Horsham Denne Neighbourhood Council the question has been raised by FoHP if it should be designated a 'Fields in Trust'. HDC have made their view known that Horsham Park is not suitable for inclusion as a 'Fields in Trust', the councillor involved is John Olson. It is not clear as to the right way forward.

8.5 - It was agreed that John Steele will contact Sally Sanderson to discuss Horsham Park and the way forward. Trudie Mitchell offered to send the latest Fields in Trust information to John Steele to assist with these discussions.

8.6 - The Cycling Non-Policy Action will be assessed by Francis Vernon and he will give some thoughts on what action could be taken through the Blueprint Plan, (Chapter 13). Francis Vernon

will report back at the next meeting and send information to the Blueprint Secretary as it becomes available for distribution to all Steering Group members.

8.7 - The WSCC and Cycle Forum Active Travel Strategy consultation closes on the 11th November 2023 so comments from Blueprint need to be issued by that date, Francis Vernon agreed to prepare comments.

8.8 - Public Realm proposals in Bishopric and Carfax which includes Active Travel public consultation has yet to be set.

8.9 - The Neighbourhood Councils will look at the Riverside Walk through their areas, taking into consideration that HDC and the Rookwood leaseholder are in discussion about routing the walk through the Rookwood Golf Course.

8.10 - Wayfinding signage is to be looked at by HDC but there is no known date. The Neighbourhood Councils could look at what improvements could be implemented.

8.11 - The Neighbourhood Councils will look at what Non-Action Policies that they could take up. The three chairs need to discuss together a way forward for action in the town for improvements. Trudie Mitchell asked what level of funding is available for projects so as to think proportionally of what to do.

8.12 - Neighbourhood Councils work with colleges on Air Pollution and it was thought that a discussion should take place with Morag Warrack who is thought to be keen on this topic.

8.13 - The 20 miles per hour speed limit around schools which is on trial in parts of West Sussex, namely Worthing, Shoreham and one other. Advisory ‘Wigwag’. This could later be extended into Horsham.

8.14 - The Housing Co-operative aim will be taken forward by Andrew Cooke. It was agreed that Ron Bates will make contact with Peter Beckley who is actively involved in the North Horsham Community Land Trust with the intention that discussion can take place between the two groups as their aims are very similar. Joy Gough is another contact in North Horsham CLT. Roger Paterson is another contact in Pulborough. John Milne is another contact in HDC.

8.15 - John Steele encouraged the Steering Group members to look at the Non Policy Actions and to think how Blueprint could take these forward. Progress would be reviewed at the next meeting.

9.0 New Blueprint Website

9.1 - John White confirmed that he has been looking into the Blueprint website. The website address could be - horshamblueprint.org.uk.

9.2 - John White will talk with Andrew Cooke on the practicalities of extracting the Blueprint website from Andrew Cooke to John White.

9.3 - Discussion took place about the Horsham Neighbourhood Forum name and by consensus it was agreed to stay with the name Blueprint.

9.4 - John White and Andrew Cooke will check if - 'horsham blueprint.org.uk' can be transferred across to other service providers if necessary. It was agreed to allow the spending of up to £100. It is hoped to have the Blueprint website in place within 3 weeks.

10.0 Other Blueprint Publicity - Facebook, Twitter (now 'X'), Others

10.1 - This will be discussed at a future meeting once the Blueprint website is set up.

11.0 - Any Other Business

11.1 - Diane Sumpter said that with Andrew Cooke re-joining the Steering Group there was no need to change the signatories to the bank account.

11.2 - The Blueprint AGM minutes have been issued to the Steering Group members and it would be good to receive any amendments by the time the Blueprint website is set up so that the AGM minutes can be published.

12.0 Date of Next Meeting

12.1 - The next Blueprint Steering Group meeting will take place on Monday 8th January 2024 starting at 7.30pm and held in the Blackbridge Community Centre.

The meeting finished at 9.30pm.