Horsham Blueprint Business Neighbourhood Forum *DRAFT No.3 - 22/02/2024*

Notes of Steering Group Meeting held on Monday 12th February 2024.

Held at the Blackbridge Community Centre, Horsham.

Attendees : John Steele, Trudie Mitchell, Diane Sumpter, Ruth Fletcher, Andrew Cooke, Francis Vernon, Ron Bates; and Malcolm Gilbert attended as observer.

Apologies were received from - Morag Warrack, John White, Graham Sitton & Sus Brundish.

The discussion started at 7.30 pm

1.0 Welcome

1,1 - John Steele opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and confirmed the meeting will follow the agenda issued prior to the meeting.

2.0 Notes of Last Meeting.

2.1 - The notes of the meeting held on the 8th January 2024 were approved by all present, with no amendments.

3.0 Treasurer's Report

3.1 - Diane Sumpter reported that the hire fee for the Blackbridge Community Hall for tonight's meeting of £18.75 has been paid.

3.2 - Diane Sumpter reported that there is £248.36 in the Blueprint Current Account; and £9.85 in the HTCP Blueprint Account to be used for projects.

3.3 - Diane Sumpter reported that Samantha Wilson of HDC Finance had been asked again about the Special Charge. Diane Sumpter said that Blueprint has yet to apply for the £2000 from HDC and that it is still hoped that this funding will be received during April 2024. This money when received will be deposited in the Blueprint Current Account.

4.0 Governance process for handling CIL

4.1 - John Steele stated that Barbara Childs of HDC is dealing with the CIL procedures and that Blueprint is awaiting an answer on the outcome of their deliberations.

5.0 Horsham District Local Plan Reg. 19 Consultation

5.1 - Ruth Fletcher declared a conflict of interest when discussing the Local Plan Regulation 19 Consultation.

5.2 - John Steele prior to this meeting issued a draft proposed Blueprint response to HDC of the Regeneration 19, which incorporates the comments received from Blueprint Steering Group members. John Steele explained that objections can only be raised if it is thought that the proposed Local Plan is not sound and/or has not been lawfully prepared.

5.3 - John Steele stated that the draft response does not comment on strategic sites which are outside the unparished area of the town. The Local Plan includes 500 more dwellings to be permitted on the Mowbray, North of Horsham development by increasing the density of dwellings and no increase in the site area.

5.4 - Discussion took place arising from the draft proposed Blueprint response document issued by John Steele. It was noted that the proposed development at Mercer Road was not reviewed as it is outside the unparished area.

5.5 - The development of the Hornbrook site which includes the provision for the Riverside Walk along the stream at the bottom of the site, this will improve the route in that part of the town. This proposed development was noted but no comments were raised.

5.6 - John Steele asked if the Steering Group is content for him to proceed with completing this response Regulation 19 document and issuing it to HDC in the method required without further discussion from the Steering Group members, After discussion all the members agreed that John Steele should complete the Blueprint response and submit it in the method required and before

the due date of the 1st March 2024. In the mean members can forward any comments they may wish to add directly to John Steele.

5.7 - Andrew Cooke mentioned that developers may have some land that would be suitable for Community Land Trust developments. Andrew Cooke agreed to look into this further. The Hornbrook development was also mentioned as a possible opportunity to investigate for Community Land Trust.

6.0 Update from HTCP

6.1 - Ron Bates reported that HTCP was continuing to keep in contact with Legal&General management about the progress with discussions to extend the Riverside Walk being extended through and around Mowbray but has been hampered since water neutrality was raised as a problem.

6.2 - Ron Bates reported that the Horsham Bus Map website still receives about 14 views each day. Trudie Mitchell has raised that some maps positioned in the town need a little routine maintenance so these maps can continue to be easily read. The replacement maps will soon be completed.

7.00 Horsham Bid: Christmas Magic Displays Competition

7.1 - Discussion took place regarding the Christmas Magic Displays Competition and it was agreed by all that Blueprint will support this event but will not be involved.

7.2 - Rachel Noel has now been named the manager of Horsham Bid. Discussion took place and it was agreed by all members that Rachel Noel should be invited to attend the next Blueprint Steering Group meeting to give an update on what BID is planning to do in the short term and its hopes for the future in the town.

8.0 Blueprint website and Facebook

8.1 - Further to the agreement at the last meeting to include information on Blueprint Steering

Group members on the Blueprint website. The information on the website will only be the name of the member and a head and shoulders photograph with no individual contact details, as contact should be made through the Blueprint Secretary. Each member should email their photograph to John White within a couple of weeks ie. by the end of February 2024.

8.2 - It is still the intention to add the dates of future Blueprint Steering Group meetings on the website in advance of each meeting to give the opportunity for residents of Denne, Trafalgar and Forest to attend Blueprint meetings.

8.3 - John White confirmed by email that the website shows about 280 people found 'Horsham Blueprint' pop up as a result of what they were looking for, and 63 sessions were recorded of people using the site over the last 28 days.

8.4 - John White confirmed by email that on Facebook we now have 272 followers. In the past 28 days, 97 people will have seen the new post promoting the revamped website. This includes 3 new likes and 3 new followers. The new round logo to go on Facebook is nearly ready and John White will issue it for approval shortly.

9.0 Blueprint Steering Group Membership

9.1 - Malcolm Gilbert who has attended the last two Blueprint Steering Group meetings as an observer, has now expressed a wish to join the Steering Group. Malcolm Gilbert informed the meeting that he has just returned to live in Horsham after working in Switzerland for 20 years and is now a retired qualified accountant and has the interest and time to give to the Blueprint Steering Group.

9.2 - John Steele proposed Malcolm Gilbert to be a member of the Blueprint Steering Group and Andrew Cooke seconded this proposal and all the members approved the co-opting of Malcolm Gilbert to be a member of the Blueprint Steering Group.

10.0 Town Council Governance Review

10.1 - John Steele informed the meeting that Blueprint can ask HDC for a governance review of the unparished area of Horsham. Following this request, HDC has to within one year carry out

this governance review.

10.2 - John Steele said that HDC is provisionally planning to carry out a governance review of the whole district in 2026 in readiness for the local elections in 2027. A governance review has not been carried out for Horsham town for some long time. There is also a need to carry out a governance review of Colgate Parish, which now includes Kilnwood Vale, so that the balance of representation on that council is more in proportion with where the population now lives.

10.3 - John Steele said that there is a case to carry out a governance review for the unparished area of Horsham earlier in 2025, but that Blueprint should trigger the governance review at a time conveniently to HDC.

10.4 - John Steele that if a governance review was undertaken in 2025, and the recommendation was in favour of the establishing a Town Council for the unparished area, this would give time to set up in a shadow form ready to operate fully from 2027.

10.5 - Discussion took place as to what are the advantages of a town council as this would need to be understood and put forward to support the case for such a change

10.6 - Andrew Cooke expressed his view that he is generally in support of a town council for the unparished area, but his thoughts are that this would be better done as part of a governance review in the district, and do all at the same time.

10.7 - Ruth Fletcher put forward the view that North Horsham Parish Council and Mowbray may need its own parish council.

10.8 - Diane Sumpter said that Blueprint should not commit too early.

10.9 - John Steele said that only Blueprint can trigger a governance review for the unparished area of Horsham. This did not include the NHPC/Mowbray or Colgate/ Kilnwood Vale. Ruth Fletcher said it would be good for Blueprint to do this with the cooperation of NHPC and Colgate, all at once.

10.10 - John Steele put forward that NHPC and Southwater PC are both successful, well run

parish councils and both these may provide guidance on a way forward.

11.0 - Update on Neighbourhood Plan Non Policy Actions

11.1 - London Road Partial Closure Proposal

11.1.1 - Francis Vernon updated the meeting that he had spoken to Nigel Dennis about London Road closure where similar plans had been looked at as far back as the 1980's. Francis Vernon said that Adam Bazley of WSCC has put forward some other ideas regarding London Road and a response is awaited from WSCC to take this proposal forward.

11.2 - 20mph zones: Forest and Trafalgar

11.2.1 - Forest NC has the 20mph proposal going into the Forest Newsletter to inform the residents but no date has yet been set for its issue.

11.2.2 - Trafalgar NC 20mph proposal has received some consultation through the Trafalgar NC newsletter and some comments received, a meeting with residents is the likely outcome. Trudie Mitchell said that Denne NC were looking at this proposal as there may be implications in Denne.

11,2.3 - Ruth Fletcher put forward the view that Blueprint could take the lead by having a group meeting on the proposal and coordinate the 20mph proposal with those proposing, interested parties, cycle groups, schools in the area, police, fire brigade, HDC, WSCC, Neighbourhood Councils, HNPC and others affected by the proposal. This is so it is one coordinated meeting.

11.2.4 - Discussion took place as to Blueprint arranging such a meeting and Francis Vernon and Ruth Fletcher agreed to take this forward. The likely timing would be during April/May 2024 and the venue could be Park Barn, Horsham Park.

11.3 - Riverside Walk (Horsham Town Community Partnership)

11.3.1 - Ron Bates confirmed that the Riverside Walk extension through the Rookwood Golf Course continues to be positively discussed between Rookwood management and HDC about extending the lease for the golf course. Once these negotiations are concluded it is hoped that detailed discussions on a Riverside Walk route will take place which involves areas of Denne and

Trafalgar.

11.4 - Housing Co-operative

11.4.1 - Andrew Cooke has talked with Peter Beckley of the North Horsham Community Land Trust with the intention of them and Blueprint working closely together to a common end. Ruth Fletcher said that the primary issue is where will the land come from to be developed by the Community Land Trust.

11.4.2 - Andrew Cooke proposed to prepare a briefing note to cover the work of the Housing Cooperative and a meeting with the Community Land Trust to explore ways forward. The Steering Group agreed that Andrew Cooke should proceed.

11.5 - Local List

11.5.1 - Ron Bates stated that the work on the proposed expanded Local List of local historic buildings in Horsham of 60 buildings has been completed by the Horsham Society. The list has been submitted to Sean Rix, Chief Conservation Officer and at a subsequent meeting the expanded list of 60 buildings was agreed. It has been agreed with Sean Rix that the Horsham Society will now make contact with the building owners/occupiers seeking their comments on the inclusion of their building in the Local List. This task will commence in the coming weeks.

11.6 - HDC Cultural Strategy

11.6.1 - There is nothing to report as this time

11.7 - Signage and Wayfinding

11.7.1 - John Steele has proposed a town trail where the direction signs are embedded in the pavement for people to navigate their way around the town. Discussion took place that other towns have signs in the pavement and wall plaques with the words on adjacent buildings, so that no paper information is needed for the trail.

11.7.2 - Ruth Fletcher asked that a draft sample of the trail envisaged be sent to her so that this

can be raised with the consultants already looking at proposals for the town.

11.8 - Air Quality

11.8.1 - Morag Warrack was not present so the topic of Air Quality will be included in the next meeting's agenda.

12.0 - Any Other Business

12.1 - Discussion took place about Fields in Trust as a method of protecting Horsham Park for future generations as a green space and not to be built on. It was agreed that Blueprint should ask HDC that Blueprint be added to the list of consultees, Jon Olson is the contact.

13.0 Date of Next Meeting

13.1 - The next Blueprint Steering Group meeting will take place on Monday 29th April 2024 starting at 7.30pm and held in the Blackbridge Community Centre.

The meeting finished at 9.00pm