Horsham Blueprint Business Neighbourhood Forum *Draft No.2 - 12/03/2025*

Notes of Steering Group Meeting held on Tuesday 18th February 2025.

Held at the Millennium Hall, Roffey, Horsham.

The meeting started at 7.30 pm

John Steele opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and introduced Nigel Friswell attending as a local neighbourhood resident. John Steele said the meeting will follow the previously issued agenda

1.00 - Attendees and Apologies

1.01 - Attendees : Blueprint Steering Group Members - John Steele, Trudie Mitchell, Diane Sumpter, Francis Vernon, Malcolm Gilbert, John White, Ron Bates & Neighbourhood Resident - Nigel Friswell.

1.02 - Apologies were received from - Blueprint Steering Group Members - Andrew Cooke. Morag Warrack, Ruth Fletcher & Neighbourhood Resident - Ian Botting.

2.0 - Notes of the last meeting

2.01 - John Steele asked if there are comments on the notes of the meeting on 27th January 2025.

2.02 - There were no comments and the notes of the meeting held on the 27th January 2025 (Draft No.2) were approved by all present at the meeting with no amendments.

3.0 - Finance Report

3.01 - Diane Sumpter reported that the finances had not changed since the last meeting.

4.0 - Public Meeting re: Governance Review / Town Council

4.01 - At the last meeting on the 27th January the possible public meeting dates have proved not to be suitable for all the speakers even though the Baptist Church Hall was booked and Trevor Leggo was available. John Steele said that to progress this matter Malcolm Gilbert has agreed to be the steering group member who will take the lead in coordinating the arrangements for the proposed public meeting and liaising with the proposed speakers for suitable dates. It is hoped that the Baptist Church Hall will be able on any suitable future date.

4.02 - Malcolm Gilbert spoke of the proposed speakers, these included Jane Eaton - Chief Executive of Horsham District Council; Martin Boffey Leader of HDC; Jonathan Chowen a previous leader of HDC and Trevor Leggo and/or Graham Watkins.

4.03 - Malcolm Gilbert confirmed that he was in communication with Jane Eaton's PA to start the discussions about availability, so that a best date for all the proposed speakers to attend the public meeting can be agreed. Two dates have been put forward, the 18th and 31st March 2025, when both Jane Eaton and Martin Boffey are available. Additional available dates in April will be proposed shortly.

4.04 - Malcolm Gilbert said that he will be attending a meeting next week, 26th February 2025, with Jane Eaton to discuss a possible agenda for the public meeting. John Steele said that there should be about half an hour for speakers followed by questions. Neither John Steele or Ron Bates are available to attend this meeting.

4.05 - John Steele said that the talks should cover both the proposed council changes and also the unparished area of Horsham. This should include that if there were to be a unitary authority and no district council, what this would mean for the unparished area of Horsham as it would have no local representation.

4.06 - John Steele said of the two dates so far proposed, he is available on the 31st March.

4.07 - Malcolm Gilbert said he had talked with HDC about the new council offices in Springfield Road as a possible venue for the public meeting, as it would cater for 100 people. While HDC feels this may be possible, it is not yet known when these new offices will be ready for overhead slide projection.

4.08 - Discussion took place about the hall hire time needed for the public meeting. It was agreed that the overall hall hire should be two hours, from 7.00pm to 9.00pm, with the public meeting starting at 7.30pm.

4.09 - Trudie Mitchell said it may be a good idea to contact the Horsham Arts Society as they have experience of meetings and may have knowledge of the Baptist Church Hall for events.

4.10 - John Steele said that overall the urgency to set a date for the public meeting is dependent on the the timing of the HDC consultation with the residents and presently this is thought to be May 2025. It is hoped that HDC will make known their public consultation time table soon. John Steele will contact Aisha Nottage of HDC for information on the likely HDC consultation timing.

4.11 - Discussion took place as to how to publicise this public meeting. The Horsham Society could write an article in the West Sussex County Times on an agreed available date prior to the public meeting, but this will have limited circulation.

4.12 - The unparished areas of Horsham would try to issue either one of their newsletters, if not they would consider delivering just an information flyer to publicise this public meeting. Trudie Mitchell said the time scale is difficult as Neighbourhood Councils members will have to agree the cost.

4.13 - John Steele, Ron Bates and Malcolm Gilbert will prepare a draft article for publication so that all the relevant headline information is coordinated for issue to the public and should be made available before the 31st March 2025.

4.14 - Further discussion took place on a date for the public meeting. The first week of April 2025 and after the 22nd April 2025 should be considered, all depending on HDC's consultation timing.

5.0 - Governance process for handling CIL

5.01 - John Steele reported that there is still no news from HDC when the CIL letter will be sent to local groups and also no list of the groups the letter will be sent to. John Steele will ask HDC again about a date for the issue of this communication, as further delay may require the request for funding return dates to be extended.

6.0 - Trafalgar 20mph Zone

6.01 - The Trafalgar 20mph zone, which includes Rushams Road area, has been turned down by WSCC, therefore there is no further progress.

6.02 - The London Road proposed traffic flow changes. WSCC have commented that they do not like the proposed closure half way down London Road and access from one end. WSCC has offered no alternative solutions. It is not clear how to progress this proposal.

7.0 - Any Other Business

7.1 - John Steele asked Nigel Friswell if he is willing to join the Blueprint steering group. Nigel Friswell confirmed he would be pleased to join as a local resident. All the steering group members present approved Nigel Friswell joining the steering group.

7.2 - It was agreed to check with Ian Botting if he also wished to join the Blueprint steering group when he next attends a meeting.

7.3 - Blueprint has received from Norman Kwan of HDC the necessary forms for Blueprint to renew registration as a Business Neighbourhood Forum. These forms still need to be completed and received by HDC before July 2025.

8.0 Date of Next Meeting

8.1 - The next Blueprint Steering Group meeting will take place on Tuesday 18th March 2025 starting at 7.30pm.

8.2 - Diane Sumpter agreed to book the room in the Blackbridge Community Centre if available, if not then book the Amberley Room at the Millennium Hall, Roffey.

The meeting finished at 8.35pm