Horsham Blueprint Business Neighbourhood Forum *Draft No.1 - 21/03/2025*

Notes of Steering Group Meeting held on Tuesday 18th March 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 Sara Doy for Denne and Colin Bush for Trafalgar. 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, Diane Sumpter, Nigel Friswell, Francis Vernon, Malcolm Gilbert, Sara Doy, Colin Bush, Ron Bates.

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

2.0 - Notes of the previous meeting

2.01 - John Steele asked if there are comments on the notes of the meeting on 18th February 2025.

2.02 - There were no comments and the notes of the meeting held on the 18th February 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 there is a balance of £1908.12 in the Blueprint account. It is also expected that the grant from HDC of £1,100 should be received soon.

3.02 - Diane Sumpter reported that the Blueprint accounts should be audited at the end of the financial year 05.04.2025. There is no auditor identified and this audit may incur a cost. John Steele and Ron Bates will look into finding a possible auditor.

4.0 - Public Meeting on Changes to Local Government

4.01 - Malcolm Gilbert confirmed that Diane Sumpter has booked the Baptist Church Hall, Brighton Road for Tuesday 29th April 2025. The hall is available from 7.00pm for the meeting to start at 7.30pm and end at 9.00pm, it would be possible to extend the end time of the meeting if necessary.

4.02 - Malcolm Gilbert confirmed that Jane Eaton and Martin Boffey have confirmed their availability to attend and speak at the meeting and answer questions. Diane Sumpter confirmed that Trevor Leggo had agreed to attend this public meeting. John Steele said he was awaiting confirmation from Jonathan Chowen that he is available to attend.

4.03 - Discussion took place as to the format for this public meeting. John Steele agreed to open the meeting and set out the agenda and introduce the speakers and the other members of the panel and that there will be time for questions.

4.04 - Malcolm Gilbert said that Jane Eaton will talk on the expected changes to local government. The proposed unitary authority for Sussex proposed by the national government, and what this change might mean with no WSCC and no HDC for the parish councils.

4.05 - Malcolm Gilbert said that Martin Boffey will talk of the options for the unparished area of Horsham.

4.06 - Malcolm Gilbert said that it is still to be discussed what Trevor Leggo and Jonathan Chowen would talk about if anything. Trevor Leggo does have a wide experience of local government all across Sussex and could provide information on how other parish and town councils operate.

4.07 - Malcolm Gilbert and Ron Bates will arrange to visit the Brighton Road Baptist Church early next week to investigate the facility for overhead slide projection and the number of microphones available for the question and answer session, and if there is a raised area for the panel members to sit.

4.08 - Diane Sumpter said that the Baptist Church hall could cater for up to 300 attendees.

4.09 - John Steele and Ron Bates said that they will start preparing some slides to set out the format for the public meeting, and contact will be made with the speakers to find out if they wish to use slides for their talks.

4.10 - Discussion took place about the public meeting advertising flyer that was previously distributed to the steering group members. Diane Sumpter proposed a small change to the wording which was agreed. John Steele said this flyer will be issued to the Blueprint members via mailChimp, and placed on the Blueprint website. It was agreed that Ron Bates will investigate distributing the flyer through the Horsham Society newsletter, the Horsham Society article space in the West Sussex County Times. Discussion took place of how it may be possible to forward the flyer to the list of local groups who received the CIL information.

4.11 - Diane Sumpter said that the three neighbourhood councils were in discussion about the possible methods of distributing their own newsletter to residents in their respective areas. It was thought that the basis of the information will be as set out in the agreed flyer with amendments, and should be distributed in April. Diane Sumpter said the information about the public meeting will also be placed on each of the neighbourhood councils website.

5.0 - Distribution of CIL

5.01 - John Steele reported that HDC had sent out letters to local groups and that this will be reviewed at the next Blueprint steering group meeting when further information has been received.

6.0 - Neighbourhood Forum Redesignation

6.01 - John Steele said that redesignation requires 21 members under the legislation, the last time the Forum was redesignated there were 41 members, currently there are 37 members, we are still campaigning to increase this number.

6.02 - John Steele said that support of the Forum has been received from Horsham Society and Horsham Town Community Partnership. John Steele asked if other local groups would be willing to give their support, such as Chesworth, Bennett's Field, Friends of Warnham Nature Reserve, Cootes Community Group and BID lead by Rachel Noel. Diane Sumpter said that the Chesworth meeting is next week and would raise this issue of registering support.

6.03 - John Steele said the link with HDC is Norman Kwan and that the forms need to be completed and received by HDC before July 2025.

7.0 - Novartis and North Horsham Community Land Trust (NHCLT)

7.01 - John Steele said that Blueprint had sent a letter to MUSE, the developer of the Novartis site, expressing support for the involvement of NHCLT in the Novartis development.

8.0 Blueprint website and Facebook

8.01 - John Steele said that John White adds information to the Blueprint website as it becomes available and the public meeting flyer will be loaded onto the website now that it has been agreed.

9.0 Update on Neighbourhood Plan Non Policy Actions

9.01 - No new information.

10.0 Any Other Business

10.01 - None

11.0 Date of Next Meeting

11.01 - The next Blueprint Steering Group meeting will take place on Tuesday 15th April 2025 starting at 7.30pm.

11.02 - Diane Sumpter agreed to book the Amberley Room at the Millennium Hall, Roffey.

The meeting finished at 8.30pm