Horsham Blueprint Business Neighbourhood Forum *Draft No.2 - 02/05/2025*

Notes of Steering Group Meeting held on Tuesday 15th April 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 Sandie Britton of Cootes Affiliated Group

1.00 - Attendees and Apologies

1.01 - Attendees : Blueprint Steering Group Members - John Steele, Trudie Mitchell, Malcolm Gilbert, Francis Vernon, Nigel Friswell, Ron Bates and Colin Bush representing Trafalgar and Ian Botting a neighbourhood resident.

1.02 - Apologies were received from - Blueprint Steering Group Members - Ruth Fletcher, Diane Sumpter, Andrew Cooke. Morag Warrack, John White & Neighbourhood Resident - Martin Boffey

2.0 - Notes of the previous meeting

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

2.02 - There were no comments and the notes of the meeting held on the 18th March 2025 were approved by all present at the meeting with no amendments.

3.0 - Finance Report

3.01 - Diane Sumpter was not present so there was no treasurer's report.

4.0 - Public Meeting on Changes to Local Government

4.01 - Malcolm Gilbert confirmed that arrangements are going well for the meeting at the Baptist Church Hall, Brighton Road for Tuesday 29th April 2025, with the hall available from 7.00pm for the meeting to start at 7.30pm and end at 9.00pm.

4.02 - Malcolm Gilbert informed the meeting that this afternoon Jane Eaton withdrew from speaking at the public meeting as she is deputy returning officer for the WSCC Riverside Ward election and that this is a conflict of interest. The election was brought about by John Milne standing down as a WSCC councillor since becoming the MP for Horsham.

4.03 - Malcolm Gilbert had not yet communicated with Martin Boffey as he is on leave, but it is hoped that he is not barred from speaking at the public meeting by the WSCC Riverside Ward election

4.04 - John Steele said we shall deal with Jane Eaton not speaking at the public meeting in the coming days. John Steele said that we are ready to have the public meeting.

4.05 - Malcolm Gilbert said that a visit will be arranged to the Baptist Church Hall to agree how we shall use the microphones and overhead projection of our slides. There is a lectern microphone and 2no. lapel and 2no. hand microphones available. Trudie Mitchell asked if there will be a church man available on the night to cover any unforeseen events. Malcolm Gilbert said the church has volunteers who manage this element and this will be discussed during the visit.

John Steele and Ron Bates agreed to accompany Malcolm Gilbert on this visit,

4.06 - Malcolm Gilbert said that it has been agreed to reserve parking spaces for the speakers.

4.07 - Malcolm Gilbert said that he planned to be at the Baptist Church from 6.30pm on the evening and all are welcome to attend early to direct the public into the hall. There will be no refreshments provided on the night.

4.08 - Publicity for the public meeting was discussed, and Denne, Forest and Trafalgar will deliver a newsletter publicising the public meeting to all residents in their areas. WSCT picked up on and published John Steele's article in the Horsham Society Newsletter. John Steele will send out reminder emails to the members on the Blueprint list prior to the meeting.

4.09 - John Steele and Ron Bates and Malcolm Gilbert said that they have started preparing some slides to set out the format for the public meeting. Contact has been made with the speakers to find out if they wish to use slides for their talks, but we are not expecting them to produce any slides.

5.0 - Unparished Area Governance Review

5.01 - John Steele talked about the report issued by HDC and the accompanying questionnaire and the publicity flyer. We await the findings of this review.

6.0 - A New Vision for Horsham Town Centre - HDC Consultation

6.01 - John Steele said that the new vision for the Bishopric seems to have the finances available whereas the vision for the Carfax does not yet have finance available. More clarity was thought to be needed regarding cycling in the Bishopric and more clarity regarding pedestrians in the Carfax. Nigel Friswell asked where do invalid mobility scooters fit into these proposals.

6.02 - Members were asked to let the Secretary know their views and whether Blueprint should respond by the 21st April 2025.

7.0 - Neighbourhood Forum Redesignation

7.01 - John Steele said that this continues to progress with Norman Kwan of HDC but at a slow pace. The forms need to be completed and received by HDC before July 2025.

8.0 - Distribution of CIL

8.1 - Blueprint is taking the lead in making contact with those organisations that express interest. Shelley Memorial / YMCA the Y Centre (not ready yet) / Springboard (John Steele & Ron Bates will follow this up) / HTCP for Riverside Walk / Friends of Horsham Park for Girls / Bennett's Field. Hopefully there will be more enquiries as there is still time.

8.2 - Discussion took place that an application could come from the Cyclists Forum and the Scouts. John Steele will forward the information to Francis Vernon and Nigel Friswell.

9.0 Blueprint website and Facebook

9.01 - John Steele said that John White adds information to the Blueprint website as it becomes available and the public meeting flyer was loaded onto the website, though this may need to be amended.

10.0 Update on Neighbourhood Plan Non Policy Actions

10.01 - John Steele said the main current topics are the Town Council, Riverside Walk, Cycling, 20mph in Trafalgar.

11.0 Any Other Business

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

12.0 Date of Next Meeting

12.01 - The next Blueprint Steering Group meeting will take place on Wednesday 21st May 2025 starting at 7.30pm.

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

The meeting finished at 8.40pm