Horsham Blueprint Business Neighbourhood Forum *Draft No.2 - 27/05/2025*

Notes of Steering Group Meeting held on Wednesday 21st May 2025.

Held at the Millennium Hall, Roffey, Horsham.

The meeting started at 7.30 pm

John Steele opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

1.00 - Attendees and Apologies

1.01 - Attendees : Blueprint Steering Group Members - John Steele, Trudie Mitchell, Diane Sumpter, Ruth Fletcher, Malcolm Gilbert, Francis Vernon, Ian Botting, Morag Warrack, and Ron Bates.

1.02 - Apologies were received from - Blueprint Steering Group Members - Andrew Cooke. Nigel Friswell, John White

2.0 - Notes of the previous meeting

2.01 - John Steele asked if there are comments on the notes of the meeting on 15th April 2025.

2.02 - There were no comments and the notes of the meeting held on the 15th April 2025 were approved by all present at the meeting with no amendments.

3.0 - Finance Report

3.01 - Diane Sumpter reported that the Baptist Church Hall, Brighton Road had been paid in full for the hire of the hall.

3.02 - Diane Sumpter confirmed that there is £1,742.64 in the Blueprint bank account. The expected financial contribution of £1,000 from HDC has yet to be received, Diane Sumpter will contact HDC.

3.03 - Diane Sumpter reported that Nat West will be making a charge in the future of £1.60 on every cheque paid in by NHPC so she suggested paying the fee for the hire of the room herself by BACS and reclaiming it from Blueprint. Diane Sumpter agreed to look into the possibility of Blueprint using On-Line Banking.

3.04 - Diane Sumpter said the known outstanding Blueprint costs are for the NHPC Millennium Hall hire of £25.20 for one and a half hours. Also to come is the increase on charges for the the Blueprint Internet connection as advised by John White.

3.05 - Ian Botting asked how Blueprint will continue if a town council is formed. John Steele said that the new town council would probably take over the management of the Blueprint Neighbourhood Plan

4.0 - Public Meeting on Changes to Local Government - Follow Up

4.01 - All agreed the public meeting at the Baptist Church Hall on the 29th April 2025 went very well and was very well attended and that all the speakers were well received by the attendees. Ian Botting said that most of the attendees were elderly and that it would have been good to attract some younger attendees.

4.02 - Discussion took place on how to attract younger people to join in the current consultation about a town council for the unparished area of Horsham. John Steele said that

Blueprint has advertised the consultation on all its platforms. Discussion turned on how to talk to the parents of school children, generally it was thought too late to deliver another mail shot for this consultation which finishes on the 16th June 2025.

4.03 - Trudie Mitchel asked how many replies to the consultation have been received so far. Ruth Fletcher said she did not have that information but would endeavor to find out the number.

4.04 - Discussion took place that this first HDC consultation is a survey requesting residents' thoughts on a town council, the following second HDC consultation will be HDC informing the residents of the results of the first consultation. Morag Warrack said that those residents with strong opinions will be those who will reply.

5.0 - Unparished Area Governance Review

5.01 - John Steele said we await the findings of this review.

6.0 - Neighbourhood Forum Redesignation

6.01 - John Steele said that HDC had come back to him earlier this day to confirm that the Blueprint Business Forum will remain as the title for the neighbourhood forum. John Steele said that he is pressing HDC to progress this necessary consultation and to let it be known as to what the format will be. John Steele said that time is tight to get this consultation set before the HDC Cabinet meeting to be held on 17th September 2025.

6.02 - As to the requirement requested by HDC for places for the residents to have access to the consultation of the Blueprint Business Neighbourhood Forum Plan. Morag Warrack said that the Holy Trinity Church Hall in Trafalgar has been made available. There are no places for public access in Denne and Forest other than the Library and the new Council Office. Ruth Fletcher put forward that the Salvation Army Hall may be available and this will be followed up by Ruth Fletcher.

6.03 - Trudie Mitchell asked that it be made clear that there are separate consultations about a town council taking place at about the same time. John Steele agreed to discuss this matter with HDC.

7.0 - Distribution of CIL

7.01 - 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 visited this site) / HTCP for Riverside Walk / Friends of Horsham Park for Girls / Holy Trinity Church / 4theYouth, Hurst Road (John steele & Ron Bates will arrange a site visit) / Cycling Forum for London Road.

7.02 - John Steele said it is now too late for further applications for this current CIL Funding. Hopefully if some of the current projects receive CIL Funding it will encourage more enquiries in the future. Morag Warrack put forward that the Butterfly Project may be interested in making a CIL Funding application in the future.

7.03 - John Steele said there was a proposal for a CIL Panel meeting arranged for Wednesday 18th June 2025 between 1.30pm to 2.30pm in the new council offices. The issue of conflicts of interest can be discussed at this meeting as well as how to award the CIL Funding.

8.0 Blueprint website and Facebook

8.01 - John Steele said that John White continues to add information to the Blueprint website as it becomes available.

9.0 Update on Neighbourhood Plan Non Policy Actions

9.01 - John Steele said the main current topics include :-

9.02 - A town council for the unparished area of Horsham.

9.03 - The 20mph in Trafalgar.

9.04 - Housing Cooperative is being led by Andrew Cooke and has been in contact with Andrew Smith the head of HDC Housing & Communities to arrange a meeting in the near future to explore any possible synergies.

9.05 - The London Road traffic priority alterations which may be funded by other CIL money than the unparished area CIL Funding. Contact will be made with Emma Parkes of HDC.

9.06 - Diane Sumpter said that if the current proposed projects are not accepted by the Blueprint CIL Panel then these projects may be able to apply to the general CIL Funding held by HDC. Discussion took place and it was generally felt that local projects should be encouraged to come forward to use the CIL money however it is held by HDC.

9.07 - The Riverside Walk project.

9.07.1 - Ruth Fletcher gave an update on the proposal to extend the Riverside Walk through and around the Rookwood Golf Course and the Warnham Local Nature Reserve for pedestrians and cyclists.

9.07.2 - Ruth Fletcher said she had cycled the proposed routes and a report will be going forward to HDC shortly.

9.07.3 - Ruth Fletcher said it was unlikely at this stage that the proposed route will include access to the nature reserve under the railway bridge adjacent to Gorringes Brook, nore access though the Walnut Tree Plantation.

9.07.4 - Ruth Fletcher said that it may be possible to give access from the Warnham Road underpass through and around the Rookwood Golf Course to the halfway house refreshment facility.

9.07.5 - Ruth Fletcher said the original proposal for access along the existing path beside Rookwood Golf Course hole 14 may be possible in the future with the addition of some protective screening which could be planted in bushes.

9.07.6 - Ruth Fletcher said that the southern route from the existing riverside walk up to and around the existing golf course clubhouse may be possible with further discussions with the Rookwood Golf Course management.

9.07.7 - Ruth Fletcher suggested that a discussion take place with David Skipp on an informal basis about these Riverside Walk route proposals.

10.0 Any Other Business

10.01 - Discussion took place about the date and venue for the Blueprint AGM. It was proposed that the AGM could take place on Wednesday 3rd September 2025 and be held at the Horsham Park Barn, from 7.00pm to 9.00pm.

11.0 Date of Next Meeting

11.01 - The next Blueprint Steering Group meeting will take place on Thursday 10th July 2025 starting at 7.30pm.

11.02 - Diane Sumpter will investigate whether the Blackbridge Community Hall is available for this meeting, if not, then book the Amberley Room at the Millennium Hall, Roffey.

The meeting finished at 8.30pm