Horsham Blueprint Neighbourhood Forum

Funding for Community Projects in Denne, Forest and Trafalgar Neighbourhoods

Guidance notes

1 Developers are required to help towards the provision of the infrastructure needed to support their developments through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). This is collected by Horsham District Council (HDC) and a proportion is devolved to Parish Councils to use for local schemes. In the case of the unparished area of Horsham town, comprising the neighbourhoods of Denne, Forest and Trafalgar, the Blueprint Neighbourhood Forum is responsible for accepting applications from local organisations for funding, assessing and prioritising them, and recommending projects for approval by an HDC chaired Panel which comprises representatives of Blueprint, the Neighbourhood Councils and a local District Councillor.

2 A grant may only be given for schemes which meet the requirements of the CIL Regulations which state that the funds can only be used to support the development of the area by funding the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure, or anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area.

3 Although organisations may approach Blueprint with suggestions for projects or advice at any stage, there will normally be two formal funding rounds each year. These will be advertised through social media and direct contact with local organisations and will set out the likely sums available and the timetable for submitting applications.

4 CIL funding is limited and will be allocated primarily for capital projects, either stand alone or contributing to a wider scheme. Organisations will be expected to show that they have a plan to meet subsequent maintenance and running costs.

5 It is expected that the available CIL funding will be applied to projects within the unparished area but we do not rule out the possibly of contributing towards out of area projects that offer significant benefit to our neighbourhoods.

6 Applications must be made on the appropriate form. Applicants will need to demonstrate the community benefits that will be delivered through their project and how it supports the objectives of Horsham Town Neighbourhood Plan (listed at Annex A).

7 The sort of projects that may attract funding include

- provision or improvement of sports and social facilities

- improvements to the public realm – footpaths, cycling, recreation areas
- new items of infrastructure to meet an identified need

8 Bids for projects that demonstrate significant community support, including match funding from the bidding organisations or others, will be particularly welcome.

9 Whilst the sums likely to be available for allocation can be estimated in advance the actual delivery of funding is dependent on the rate at which developers complete their developments, which in turn is subject to a variety of factors. Therefore projects which are flexible in timescale may have an advantage.

10 Applications which are received within the appropriate timescale will be assessed and prioritised by the Blueprint Steering Group which will make recommendations to the Unparished Area of Horsham Town CIL Panel.

11 When allocating funding the Unparished Area of Horsham Town CIL Panel will seek to ensure that there is a mix of high and low value projects. Funding offers may be staged over more than one year. Once applications have been considered by the Panel all the bidders will be advised of the outcome. The funding will at all stages be held by HDC and therefore if funding is approved, or approved conditionally, then HDC will contact bidders to progress the project.

12 Organisations wishing to bid for funding are encouraged to have a preliminary without prejudice discussion with their local Neighbourhood Council. This is particularly important if your bid is likely to be over £10,000. Further engagement with stakeholders such as West Sussex County Council may also be needed. Contact details are shown in Annex B.

Horsham Blueprint Steering Group
September 2025

ANNEX A

The Horsham Town Neighbourhood Plan has the following nine objectives.

Applicants for funding should indicate how their project supports our objectives.

Objective 1: To safeguard, conserve, protect and enhance the historic character of the Area, including its Conservation Areas and heritage assets and their settings.

Objective 2: To safeguard green space, where it contributes to the wider green and blue infrastructure and/or is demonstrably special, for instance where it contributes to local character, biodiversity, recreation or tranquillity.

Objective 3: To protect and improve community, recreational, sporting and leisure facilities and be an integrated, balanced and resilient community, catering for diverse and changing needs across all age and social groups.

Objective 4: To ensure that development is well designed, is in keeping with local character and
does not put adverse pressure on the roads, publicly available car parking and other services and infrastructure.

Objective 5: To encourage new housing that addresses local housing need, in particular providing opportunities for first-time buyers and young families to move into or remain in the area and provide opportunities for older people wishing to downsize.

Objective 6: To have a network of attractive streets and public spaces, which encourages pedestrian use and cycling, particularly for shorter journeys, and which moves the balance away from the dominance of cars, improves access within the area and to the surrounding settlements and countryside.

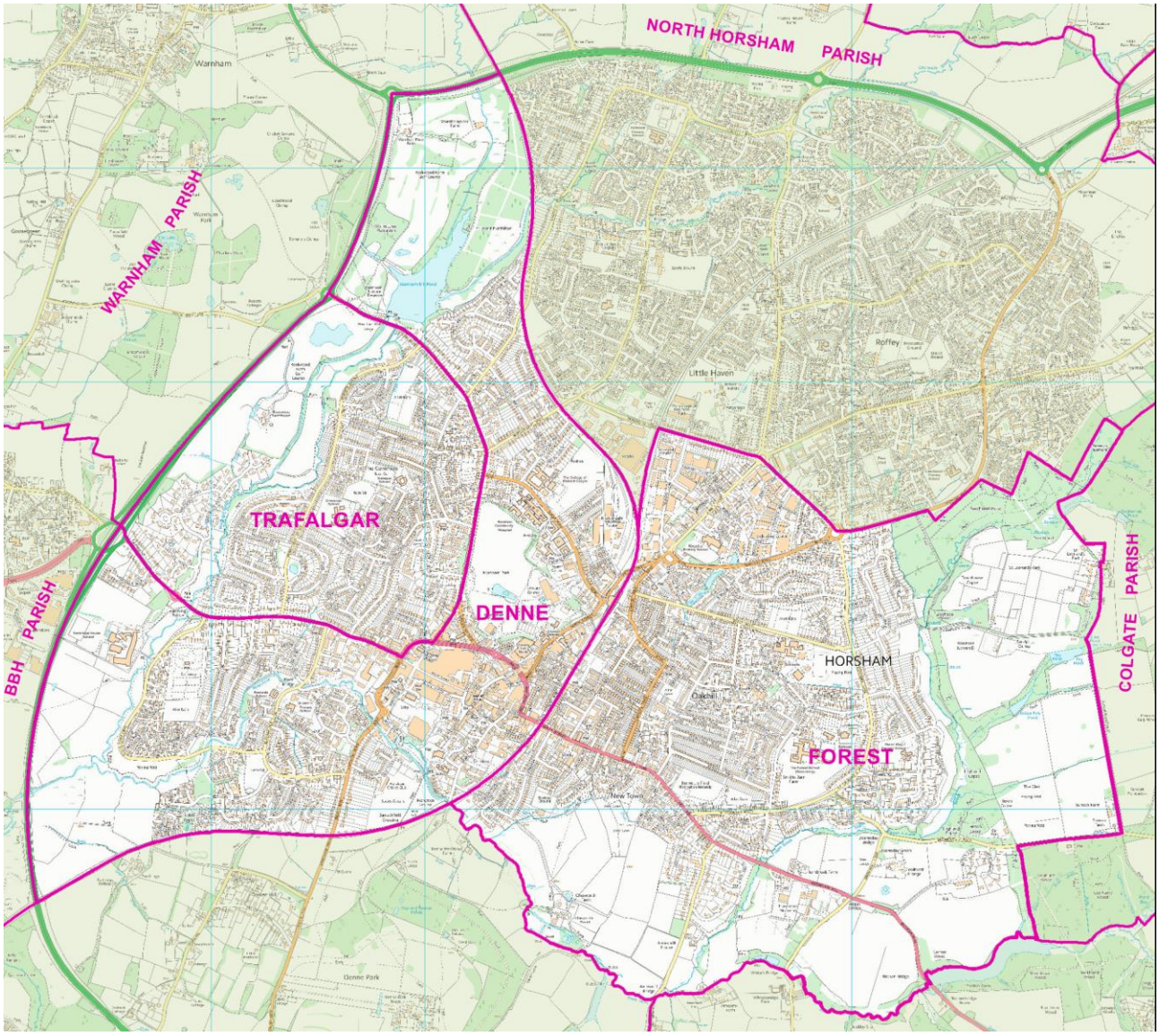
Objective 7: To support Horsham Town as a distinctive market town with a lively shopping experience and an eclectic mix of retail and complementary uses/facilities and a safe and welcoming evening economy to meet the needs of residents and visitors.

Objective 8: For the area to have a competitive edge as a good place to start and build a business, particularly in the digital and energy sectors, contributing to a net zero carbon economy; thereby supporting a sustainable local economy that provides high quality local employment.

Objective 9: To support initiatives and schemes that offset the impacts of climate change and create a low-carbon neighbourhood.

ANNEX B

MAP OF THE UNPARISHED AREA OF HORSHAM TOWN AND CONTACT DETAILS



Contact details

Horsham Blueprint Steering Group:	horshamblueprint@gmail.com
Horsham Denne Neighbourhood Council:	denneneighbourhoodclerk@gmail.com
Horsham Forest Neighbourhood Council:	fnchorsham@sky.com
Trafalgar Forest Neighbourhood Council:	clerk@horshamtrafalgarnc.com
Horsham District Council:	community.development@horsham.gov.uk
West Sussex County Council:	george.fort@westsussex.gov.uk

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