

# **HORLEY TOWN COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of a Meeting of the Environment Sub-Committee held at the Town Council Offices, Albert Road, Horley on 6 September 2022, at 6:00 pm**

<b>Present</b>	Cllrs	Hannah Avery (VC)	Jordan Beech	David Powell*
		Jante Baird	Giorgio Buttironi	Martin Saunders (C)
			Mike George	
Non-Councillors		Richard Bethell	Mike Humphrey	
<b>* Absent</b>				
<b>Also Present</b>		Judy Morgan (RFO)		
		Robbie Stewart (SCC Highways Environmental Officer)		
		Alan Mills (RBBC Sustainability Officer)		
		Tom Simpson (GGP)		

### **ESC 10 Apologies and Reasons for Absence**

***RESOLVED: that the apologies of Cllr Powell be accepted.***

### **ESC 11 Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest in relation to any items included on the agenda.

***RESOLVED: noted.***

### **ESC 12 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 17 May 2022**

***RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2022 be approved.***

### **ESC 13 Environment Sub Committee Updates**

An interim working group meeting was held in July to discuss tree planting, wildflower seeding, electric vehicle charging points and sustainable travel.

HTC officers followed up on the action to make enquiries with the Woodland Trust regarding the free Tree initiative. The RFO gave a brief overview of the information received which had been circulated to all Members

***RESOLVED: noted.***

### **ESC 14 Works Perfect: Horley Commercial Hub Proposals**

Mike Humphrey gave the following update. RBBC had informed him that 59 Victoria Road was not an option as they were in negotiation with another party. He was due to have a further meeting with officers at RBBC during the week to discuss, potential funding and other investment opportunities. The business case would be revised in the light of the current fuel crisis and other economic pressures. They would be looking for other suitable accommodation amongst the remainder of the property portfolio.

Cllr Saunders reported that he had been unable to arrange a tour of Barclays Bank, he understands that the offices at the top are dilapidated which might make it costly to set up, in addition to the rent being expensive.

**ESC 14)** Cllr Beech reported that he together with other Councillors had toured the premises of the Horley Police Station. He felt that there was potential for modernisation to create space for the Town Council, the Commercial Hub and Susy Radio. The Council are seeking to have the property listed as an Asset of Community Value. It would be a purchase, not a lease and the value of the property is not yet known. Some operational police officers are still in the building and when the building will be for sale is not known.

Cllr Baird expressed disappointment that RBBC had not been more encouraging of the project, and she felt that the opportunity to work together to create a Commercial Hub in the Victoria Road premises had been missed. Mike Humphrey said that there were lessons to be learnt. There was a lot of support for the Commercial Hub initiative, and it is a good idea.

***RESOLVED: that Cllrs Avery and Buttironi express disappointment of how the project has been handled by RBBC.***

***RESOLVED: that a further update on the proposed Horley Commercial Hub project be provided at the next Sub-Committee meeting.***

## **ESC 16 Tree Planting initiatives**

The RBBC Sustainability Officer gave the following updates.

- Community facing sustainability multi partnership tree planting was successful earlier in the year with the right tree planted in the right place
- Trees suck up carbon
- Need to identify sites
- Need volunteers to help with planting and maintenance
- Need to engage with the community and create a tree planting network
- There are plenty of trees available and many sources of trees, however aftercare needs to be considered
- Main issues are the lack of sites

Tom Simpson (GGP) said that aftercare was key and requested that when requesting trees, it would be good to ask that they do not use the plastic collars for tree protection, there are alternatives. The more people ask for an alternative to plastic collars, the more pressure will be brought to bear to bring about change. He added that consideration needs to be given to aftercare, fruit trees especially need mulching.

The SCC Highways Environment Officer, responsible for Highways Tree management, gave an overview of the criteria for planting on Highways Land. He said that the [website](#) had been made clearer. The key thing was that the proposer of the tree planting needs to carry out the watering and maintenance of the tree, in the beginning a tree needs a bucket of water per day. SCC will provide the trees and do the planting, but the community needs to provide the ongoing maintenance.

In reply to questions he said that if the answer to a request for planting a tree is not clear, there is [the Blue Campaign](#) to increase biodiversity in grass verges

Proposed priority locations for tree planting in Horley

- Cheyne Walk Roundabout – careful consideration needs to be given to who will be responsible for watering and maintenance
- Kinglsey Road North

Other possible locations for consideration

- Amhearst Place
- Horley North

**ESC 16)** ➤ RBBC Urban Open Space

No longer on the list as being managed by Raven Housing

- Court Lodge – Tony Freeman has sourced trees and the scheme is already in place.

**RESOLVED: Noted**

**ESC 17 Environmental Survey**

Cllr George suggested that now it is the beginning of a new school year it would be possible to relaunch the junior survey in a different format for use as a class-based activity through the Horley Learning Partnership. In reply to Members questions he suggested that this would now consist of open questions appropriate to the age group and the thrust of the survey is to prompt family discussions and thoughts about how to take actions to combat climate change.

**RESOLVED: that a new proposed junior survey be deferred for further consideration**

**ESC 18 Future projects and priorities**

The following projects and proposals were put forward by the Sub-Committee:

- Provision of Electric Vehicle Charging Points at the HTC offices (subject to Full Council approval on terms and financial arrangements)
- Wildflower Planting – following sites to be investigated by Sub-Committee for information re process, cost, and maintenance.
  - Court Lodge,
  - New Churchyard, (Tom Simpson advised that it would be worth conducting a survey before disturbing the ground)
  - Acres bus stop (nr Taynard Barn),
  - entrance to Langshott,
  - Emlyn Meadows Bund,
  - Horley Infant School,
  - Horley Recreation Ground
- Export rate for Solar Electricity
- Deposit return scheme for bottles
- Recycling Bins in the High Street

**RESOLVED: noted.**

**Meeting closed at 19:24 pm**

**Date of Next Meeting – 6 November 2022**