

## **HORLEY TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of a Meeting of the Environment Sub-Committee**

**held at the Town Council Offices, Albert Road, Horley on 8 November 2022, at 6:30 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>		Joan Walsh (Town Clerk)		
		Judy Morgan (RFO)		

#### **ESC 19 Apologies and Reasons for Absence**

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

#### **ESC 20 Declarations of Interest**

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

***RESOLVED: noted.***

#### **ESC 21 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 September 2022**

***RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2022 be approved.***

#### **ESC 22 Works Perfect: Horley Commercial Hub Proposals**

Mike Humphrey gave the following update. He said that 59 Victoria Road had been occupied by a business so the opportunity for those premises has been lost. A dialogue with Barclays Bank was still being pursued and, although the idea of the Lidl site had been floated, this would be too big for their needs. They would however continue to look for other suitable accommodation amongst the remainder of the property portfolio.

Cllr Saunders reported that he had been unable to arrange a tour of the former site of Barclays Bank on Victoria Road but he is continuing to pursue this. Cllr Saunders raised the possibility of the 'Work From Pub' solution as an interim measure if they were able to get any local brewery chains interested. Mike Humphrey said that it would be good to show support for any measure that would re-invigorate the High Street, improve morale, and support local businesses. They were keen to champion business growth at any level and would promote the opportunity.

Cllr Avery reported that she and Cllr Buttironi had expressed Horley Town Council's disappointment on how the project had been handled at the Borough and the comments made had reportedly been noted.

Cllr Powell suggested that it may be worth exploring if there might be an opportunity to use spare accommodation at St Bart's Church and he undertook to explore this possibility.

Cllr Baird mentioned that the redevelopment proposals at Regent House Community Centre may provide some room utilisation opportunities.

It was noted that the leader of RBBC had expressed an interest in learning more about the Commercial Hub proposal. It was felt that his attendance at a future meeting would be beneficial and enquiries would be made along these lines.

The Town Clerk added that the Council had sought to have the Horley Police Station listed as an Asset of Community Value, but the application had been unsuccessful.

- ESC 22) ***RESOLVED: that Mike Humphrey contact local chain public houses about the 'Work From Pub' (WFP) scheme, for further information.***
- ESC 23) ***RESOLVED: that Cllr Powell contact St Bart's Church with a view to ascertaining if any suitable accommodation might be available on Church premises.***
- ESC 24) ***RESOLVED: that enquiries be made with RBBC Leader, Cllr Mark Brunt, with a view to attending a future meeting of the group.***
- ESC 25) ***RESOLVED: that a further update on the proposed Horley Commercial Hub project be provided at the next Sub-Committee meeting.***

#### **Tree Planting initiatives**

#### **ESC 26 Cheyne Road Roundabout**

Following on from Cheyne Walk roundabout being identified as a proposed priority location for tree planting in Horley, the HTC office had been contacted by Robbie Stewart (SCC Highways Environmental Officer) to pass on the offer of tree and hedgerow planting on the roundabout. The initial request for fruit trees to be planted there had been denied based on their risk assessment. Following further consultation with the ESC Chairman about the offer of the tree and hedgerow planting being acceptable, it was made clear that HTC could not undertake any responsibility for ongoing watering and maintenance after planting.

The SCC Highways Environmental Officer responded that as the land belonged to SCC, they would look to come up with a contract to maintain and water the new trees. However, any offer of assistance from volunteers (including local residents, the Borough Council) in the meantime, would be greatly appreciated to give the trees the best chance of survival, especially in the very dry seasons. The Sub-Committee was very positive about the proposal and several members volunteered to get in touch with residents at the location to help organise the watering requirements.

***RESOLVED: that Members of the ESC would contact residents near Cheyne Walk to seek their assistance in watering trees and vegetation on the roundabout during dry weather.***

#### **ESC 27 Court Lodge**

The ESC welcomed the photographs of the new Community Orchard at Court Lodge, provided by Cllr George, and were pleased the see the project had been implemented. It was further noted that Raven Housing were responsible for the Orchard and local residents were also reportedly helping out with the maintenance and watering.

***RESOLVED: noted.***

- ESC 28) ***RESOLVED: That HTC Officers follow up on planting for Kingsley Road North as the next priority location identified for tree planting.***

## ESC 29 Future projects and priorities

### **Provision of Electric Vehicle Charging Points at the HTC offices (subject to Full Council approval on terms and financial arrangements)**

The Chairman identified all HTC sites as possible locations for the installation of Electric Vehicle Charging Points and that the project should be expedited. Mike Humphrey said that he understood that there were solutions with would have no upfront cost to the Council which could be explored. The RFO explained that there are multiple possibilities with various costs, and she recommended that consideration be deferred to the next Full Council meeting when an informative briefing from Leon Hibbs, (RBBC Air Quality Monitoring Officer) could be arranged. He has been responsible for the roll out of EVCP' in Borough Car Parks so can pass on knowledge and experience.

The ESC were very positive about the possibility of installing EVCP's at all HTC sites and hoped that this project could be progress speedily.

***RESOLVED: That Leon Hibbs be invited to attend the next Full Council meeting to be held on 6 December 2022***

### **Wildflower Planting**

The Chairman gave a presentation about the results of his investigation re process, cost, and maintenance. A copy of the presentation is attached. It was agreed a quote should be sought from idverde for the cost for each identified site including maintenance and presented to the next meeting of the sub-committee. In the first instance the following sites were shortlisted for consideration:

- Court Lodge
- Acres bus stop (nr Tanyard Barn)
- Roundabout on Wheatfield way at the entrance to Langshott
- Emlyn Meadows Bund
- Horley Recreation Ground

The Chairman reported that there was a blue heart scheme, supported by SCC, whereby planting the blue heart would indicate that the area is to be left uncut. SCC need to be contacted to ensure that the verge or area is suitable for being left uncut. The Town Clerk added that where it is not HTC land, permissions would need to be sought. The Chairman undertook to contact the RBBC Sustainability Officer Alan Mills regarding permission on RBBC land, and the Acres Management Company, the office will contact SCC.

The sub-committee welcomed the idea of the blue hearts and felt that there was an opportunity for community engagement like 'Horley Stones' and it was proposed to invite schools to get involved with painting the Blue Hearts with assemblies, promoting the green agenda. Cllr Baird volunteered to go into schools.

### ***RESOLVED:***

- (i) That Cllr Saunders arranges for permissions to be sought on the shortlisted sites for wildflower planting from SCC, RBBC and the Acres Management Company with assistance from Cllr Baird.***
- (ii) That HTC Officers source quotations for wildflower planting at the shortlisted sites on land either owned or managed by Horley Town Council; or where approvals have been granted by other landowners as appropriate.***

Meeting closed at 19:28 pm

Date of Next Meeting – 17 January 2022