

HORLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Horley Town Meeting held virtually on Friday 30 April 2021

PRESENT

In the Chair:	Cllr David Powell - Chairman & Town Mayor
Town Councillors	Cllrs H Avery J Baird, J Baker, J Beech, G Buttironi, M George, A Kitajewski, H Kitajewski, Samantha Marshall, Simon Marshall, W Phillips, M Saunders, R Spencer & F Stimpson.
County Councillor	Cllr Kay Hammond
Town Award Recipient	Yvonne Kinasz
Henry Smith Charity (Horley) Trustee	Jim Williamson
St Bartholomew's Church Horley	Revd Canon Leslie Wells Dr Thiru Jesudason (Church Warden)
Community Foundation for Surrey	David McSween (Grants Officer)
Environment Working Group:	Mike Humphrey (Plus appointed Town Councillors)
Town Clerk	Joan Walsh
Head of Leisure	Carol Fenton
Responsible Financial Officer	Judy Morgan
Communications & Compliance Officer	Helen Maan
HTC Consultant	Alan Jones

Plus 25 members of the public.

The Town Council Chairman, Cllr David Powell welcomed everybody to the meeting.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Town Cllrs J Hudson & R Marr and Borough Cllr R Biggs

Minutes of Meeting held on 16 May 2019

The Minutes of the Horley Town Meeting held on 16 May 2019 were presented for confirmation by those present and signature by the Chairman of the Council in due course.

Town Award Presentation

A prestigious Town Award was presented to Yvonne Kinasz for her invaluable voluntary work with the Horley Walkie Talkie Group. (A copy of the Citation is appended to the signed copy of the minutes).

Henry Smith Charity (Horley)

The Annual Report of the Charity was presented by Jim Williamson, one of the Trustees (a copy is appended to the signed copy of the minutes). Jim explained that the Covid 19 Pandemic had had a very significant effect on the demands of the Charity, so much so that the annual allowance from the Henry Smith Trustees was to be issued at the end of July, four months ahead of the usual timescale. The Chairman thanked Jim Williamson for his presentation and there were no questions from those present.

Horley Churchyards (St Bartholomew's Church)

Dr Thiru Jesudason presented the report from St Bart's Church (a copy is appended to the signed copy of the minutes). She updated those present on works carried out during the previous year and thanked Grounds Maintenance contractor idverde for their continued excellent work in the New Churchyard. Revd Canon Les Wells thanked the Town Council for its ongoing support, as well as the regular attendance by HTC members and officers at the Churchyards Committee meetings. He also thanked the County Care volunteers for all their work in the Churchyards, especially the recent painting of the gates of the New Churchyard. Revd Les concluded by welcoming everyone to join the annual tour of the Churchyards in September.

Community Foundation for Surrey - Horley Edmonds Fund

The Fund Statement for the year ended 31 March 2021 was received by those present (a copy is appended to the signed copy of the minutes). Grants Officer David McSween gave an update on the Community Foundation. He explained that 4.3 million pounds had been awarded in grants by the Foundation and he thanked the Town Council for its ongoing support. David wished newly appointed Chief Executive Dr Beccy Bowden every success in her new role with the Foundation. The Town Clerk thanked David for his informative presentation.

Annual Report 2020 – 2021

The Annual Report was received by those present. Thanks were recorded to the Production Company MAD Ideas for preparing the artwork for the Report. The Clerk added that the Annual Report was available to view on the HTC website and paper copies were also available from the HTC Offices.

Report of the Chairman of the Council - Councillor David Powell

Cllr David Powell presented his report, a copy of which is appended to the signed copy of the minutes. (Also available in the 2020-2021 Annual Report.)

Report of the Chairman of the Leisure & Amenities Committee - Councillor Simon Marshall

Cllr Simon Marshall presented his report, a copy of which is appended to the signed copy of the minutes. (Also available in the 2020-2021 Annual Report.)

Report of the Chairman of the Planning & Development Committee - Councillor Mike George

Cllr Mike George presented his report, a copy of which is appended to the signed copy of the minutes. (Also available in the 2020-2021 Annual Report.)

Report of the Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee - Councillor Helen Kitajewski

Cllr Helen Kitajewski presented her report, a copy of which is appended to the signed copy of the minutes. (Also available in the 2020-2021 Annual Report.)

Resolutions

The Clerk advised that no Resolutions had been received.

Horley in Bloom and Horley in Pictures Competitions 2021

The Head of Leisure explained that, fingers crossed it was planned to run the Horley in Bloom Gardening Competition this year, with all the usual categories for residents to enter. Following the success of last year's online Photographic Competition, it was also planned to run "Horley in Pictures", an online competition showing how residents, pets and wildlife have been using the great outdoors in Horley. Full details would shortly be available.

Presentation from the Town Council's Environment Working Group

The Chairman of the Council explained that membership of the Environment Group comprised himself, Cllr Mike George, Cllr Martin Saunders and local residents Richard Bethell and Mike Humphrey. He explained that the Group had started work in 2012 with the slogan "Go Horley, Go Green". Environment Surveys had been carried out at Waitrose and Tesco, seeking pledges from local residents to reduce their carbon footprint. Eco Art competitions for local schools were held in 2012 and 2013, which went Borough-wide in 2014. Environment issues such as Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed invasion were also tackled by the Group.

Cllr Martin Saunders went on to explain that the Group had been re-launched late in 2019 with three priorities: Net Carbon Zero, Reducing Waste and Horley Ecology. Martin explained that the mission of the Horley Town Council Environment Working Group was to tackle climate change, reduce plastic waste and improve the ecology of the Horley area by changing the activities of Horley Town Council, influencing and lobbying council partners and by assisting residents and businesses to actively support environment improvement activities. In December 2019 the Town Council declared "A Climate Emergency Requiring Urgent Action". The Group was exploring the use of more recycling bins in open spaces and the use of solar panels and batteries on HTC buildings, as well as encouraging local restaurants to serve less red meat on their menus and urging local supermarkets to introduce re-fill stations for certain products.

Cllr Mike George added that the Group was currently working on an online Residents' Survey and was keen to get responses from those residents under 30. A junior survey was also being developed. The Town Council would seek to work jointly with Reigate & Banstead Borough Council where appropriate and was working to increase electric vehicle charging points around the town. The Town Council had invited suggestions from local residents for the location of trees as part of the Surrey County Council Tree Planting Initiative. Some sites had been rejected by SCC but others had been included as part of the scheme. Fruit trees and community orchards had also been suggested and SCC would possibly consider siting these on private land if the landowners agreed. The Town Council continued to support the invaluable work carried out by local litter picking groups by providing litter pickers and designated litter sacks. Mike Humphrey, a member of the Environment Group and Chairman of the Horley & District Chamber of Commerce was at the forefront of plans to develop "Works Perfect", a Commercial Hub for Horley. The Hub would be a facility for remote working, meeting rooms and pop-up shops for small local businesses, with its uses expanding over a period of time. Advice would be available for those looking to start up a business, improve their skills or change career direction. Longer term it was hoped to provide links with local schools and colleges.

A resident questioned that should the standby runway at Gatwick Airport be brought into regular use, then it could lessen the impact of what Horley was hoping to achieve. Cllr Saunders replied that this shouldn't deter the Group from doing what it could to improve the environment of Horley.

The Chairman of the Council thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Date of Next Meeting – 29 April 2022 (provisional)

Signed:

Dated:



Horley Town Award - 30th April 2021

Citation - Yvonne Kinasz

Yvonne Kinasz has been nominated for a Town Award for the invaluable work she does with the Horley Walkie Talkie Group, which she helped set up a few years ago to assist the residents of Horley.

The proposer of this Award says: "I am writing this citation as a fairly non-active walker who has followed the success of the Horley Walkie Talkies. I have noticed this group grow from its conception as an 'afterwork, beat the Christmas weight' idea to a welcoming community group that has made a difference to so many lives, especially over the last twelve months. This growth is due to Yvonne's enthusiasm and ideas, such as regular updates on Facebook, photo postings and now the 'hanging hearts' to be found in the Langshott woods. This would not have happened without inspired leadership, so I have no hesitation in proposing Yvonne for this award."

The seconder of the Award has added: "I heard about "Horley Walkie Talkies in the middle of 2020. The group offered walks, principally locally, of various lengths and abilities, which at all times met the Government rules prevailing at the time, due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. I joined and have enjoyed both the exercise and the company of new friends. Yvonne has made a point of accompanying anyone new to the group on their first walk and will often do an extra lap with someone if they are going through a difficult time, unemployment, being furloughed or the illness or loss of loved ones sadly being common themes. Images, with consent and banter, are frequently shared on Facebook during the gaps between walks. A final aspect has been the chance to get outside after the confinements we have all faced due to the rules/enforced homeworking etc. and boost that vitamin D intake."

For these reasons the Town Award is to be presented to Yvonne for her help to Horley residents, especially in these difficult times.

*Cllr David Powell, Chairman & Town Mayor,
Horley Town Council, 30th April 2021*

HENRY SMITH CHARITY

Established 1628

Parish of Horley (189) Charity No 237044

ANNUAL REPORT TO HORLEY TOWN COUNCIL 2020-21

This has been a year of change, yet again, for this 'branch' of the Henry Smith Charity. We have over the past few years been widening the categories of people which we are able to help and have continued to encourage and receive applications from the following

- Elderly People
- Students
- Families in need
- Single Parents
- Disabled People
- Volunteers.
- Homeless People

Our Trustees remain the same.

We have changed our Financial Year and so this report will reflect our spending to the date of this report with the balance we hold now needing to last until September of this year at least. The rate at which we have had to spend during the last year suggests that we will be working towards a zero balance by our end of year in July. Our next income from Smiths will not be until November.

It is undoubted that Covid 19 has had an effect of demands on our services and the number of homeless people we have helped has increased noticeably. We have needed to adopt different ways of dealing with applications. i.e., less paper and more emails and telephone calls. We have also adopted a habit of making purchases on behalf of applicants and having them delivered direct to them where appropriate

Our current Balance is £7,800 with £500 of Tesco Vouchers as 'cash' in hand
Our Income from Smiths remains at £14,040 but in addition this year we have been given £4450 by the Baptist Church to distribute on their behalf

The expenditure to date since August 2020 has been £10,640.

We have helped people from all of our target categories.

It is always difficult to report numbers when Annual Meetings are not coterminous with accounting periods but to give some idea, during the period from March 1st 2020 and February 12th 2021 we have dealt with approximately 120 applications and affected the lives of approx. 480 people

We have been assisted in our efforts by referral from professional agencies and such organisations as C.A.B and we continue to develop our relationships with such groups.

Our advertising has largely relied on use of Social Media and we are more than happy to have local residents 'share' our information

Doug Kilborn

Administrator Trustee

12th February 2021

Horley Churchyards – Report from St Bart’s Church Horley April 2021

We are grateful to the support we receive from the Town council, both for monetary support & their timely advice.

The New Churchyard

Idverde - who took over Burley’s the previous contractor for grass & hedge maintenance, have done an excellent job in 2020, despite the lockdown, keeping to the same rates as previously +CPI. They also hold the contract for the current year – The contract price including VAT – is £8,484.

Trees- We had concerns raised by the allotment holders over some dead trees on the on land that borders the allotments. This was dealt with promptly & cost £354.

We also had to pollard a huge tall Oak bordering the houses on Church View Close, at a cost of £900 (cheapest of three quotes). We received a grant of £750 from kay Hammond County Cllr, from the member’s allocation fund towards this essential tree work

Church volunteers- we are grateful to the volunteers who have helped to keep it safe backfilling sunken graves, cutting back, brambles etc. We now have numbered posts marking the rows where graves are laid, corresponding to a grid that is held in the parish office, making it easier for families to find graves of their loved ones.

County Care volunteers – Under the supervision of James Baker are painting the entrance gates, which no doubt will be completed when the lockdown is lifted.

The Old Churchyard

Around St Bart’s church is maintained by the Reigate & Banstead Borough Council.

The Boer War Memorial Lychgate – the roof & the gates repaired & redecorated, thanks to grants from various charities. Our thanks are due to Horley Town Council who contributed £1,000.

Thiru Jesudason. Churchwarden, St Bart’s Horley.

Fund Holder Quarterly Statement

Report for the Period: 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

Horley Edmonds Endowment Fund			
Market Value of Fund at 31 March 2020			£110,473.18
		Credits	Debits
Capital Revaluation		£23,257.15	
	TOTAL	£23,257.15	£0.00
Total Fund at 31 March 2021			£133,730.33

Please note: Endowment valuations are updated annually on the 31st March

Grants Income & Expenditure			
Opening Balance at 01 April 2020			£4,723.65
		Receipts	Payments
Dividend Receipts and cash distributions from Endowment Funds		£4,835.57	
Contribution to Community Foundation			£1,813.34
Grant Payments			£1,500.00
	TOTAL	£4,835.57	£3,313.34
Balance available for grant making at 31 March 2021			£6,245.88

Statement of Grants Given

01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

Date	Applicant	Amount	Note
04/09/2020	YMCA East Surrey	£1,500.00	Funding to increase the hours of a Family Support Worker and the Information & Advice Receptionist to support vulnerable families in Horley
1 grant given to the value of £1,500.00			

Chairman's Report

2020-21

At the time of writing this report, I am very saddened to hear about the announcement of the death of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh. I have conveyed my sincere condolences to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and to the Royal Family, on behalf of Horley Town Council and our community.

As my term of office for the Municipal year draws to a close, a full twelve months has passed since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic and undoubtedly it has turned out to be a year like no other, presenting many difficulties for us all to overcome. Despite this, it is truly admirable how the Horley community has adapted to the many unforeseen challenges we have faced in one way or another. The willingness and kind-heartedness offered by so many of our residents to others needing practical help and support in these unprecedented times is nothing less than commendable and is testament to the true community spirit of Horley.

The pandemic has without doubt caused a significant financial impact for Horley Town Council, like many local businesses, retailers, and community groups. However, through our prudent financial management and steadfast resilience, we look forward to the future with confidence and aim to keep all our plans in a forward direction to maintain our overall vision for Horley.

Regrettably, many Mayoral events had to be postponed during the Municipal year, in line with social distancing rules, including the Remembrance Sunday service at Memorial Gardens. However, important Commemorations were still observed with the Re-dedication of the Memorial Gardens; a private service took place on Remembrance Sunday in the grounds of St Bart's Church and the Two Minutes' Silence was held in the Pedestrian Precinct, naturally with limited numbers attending all these events. I was also very honoured to be made President of the

Horley Branch of the Royal British Legion (RBL) last year.

In addition, I was delighted to take part in the sponsored "Walk to the Menin Gate" fundraiser by walking the equivalent distance of 165 miles in completing laps around Horley Recreation Ground whilst carrying a Poppy Wreath and accompanied by my fellow Horley RBL elders. The fundraising initiative was to help towards the cost of repairs to the Earl Haig Sports & Social Club on Albert Road (used by the Horley RBL Branch as their HQ) after it was damaged by a fire caused by an electrical system fault. The event, held over several weeks, was greatly supported along with the Reigate & Banstead Mayor, Cllr Rosemary Absalom who presided over the conclusion of walk on the final day. The personalised Poppy Wreath was later presented to the Mayor of Ypres to lay at the Menin Gate Memorial which is dedicated to all the British and Commonwealth soldiers who were killed in the Ypres Salient of World War I and whose graves are unknown.

Other Mayoral events had similarly to be kept limited, but I was able to attend the 'Licensing Service of Pioneer Youth/Family Worker at St Bart's Church Professionals' Breakfast Briefing', hosted by Wykeham House Care Home. I also took part in the walkabout around Horley Town Centre back in June for the reopening of non-essential retail along with RBBC Mayor, Cllr Mary Absalom and I was present at a small wreath laying ceremony in the Memorial Gardens on 15th August 2020 to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day.

There were some other very sad times during the Mayoral year with the passing of former Cllr & Town Mayor, Mike Miller; Borough Cllr, Derek Allcard; former Town Councillor & Town Council Chairman, Gordon McGinty and the more recent announcement of the death of the former MP for East Surrey, Peter Ainsworth - may they all rest in peace.



Chairman's Report

2020-21 cont.

Our very proud achievement over the past year was to reach Practical Completion of the 'Café In The Park' project at Horley Recreation ground along with the newly refurbished tennis courts, creating a flagship park and a real legacy for the Horley community. We are delighted to welcome the Café Operators 'The Farmyard Kitchen' who have taken on the tenancy. They will already be well known to the locals and park visitors since they have been operating their mobile catering at the park until they are able to offer a full service as we emerge out of lockdown in line with the Government's roadmap.

We were also delighted to welcome our two new Town Councillors, Hannah Avery and Jordan Beech who were elected to the Council through Co-Option in October and we know they will be a great asset with their innovative ideas, great enthusiasm, and strong interest to make Horley the very best it can be along with their fellow Councillors.

In closing, I wish to give my sincere appreciation to the Town Clerk, Joan Walsh who has led our superb team of highly experienced Council Officers so well and in very challenging circumstances during the Covid-19 crisis. I would also like to thank the Head of Leisure and Deputy Town Clerk, Carol Fenton; Responsible Financial Officer, Judy Morgan; Communications & Compliance Officer, Helen Maan; and Administrative Officer, Dominic Morgan. All staff have kept the Council operating as efficiently as ever and adapted so well to the revolutionised way of conducting business through this new age of remote working. Our caretakers and contractors have

also been working round the clock to keep our parks, open spaces and community buildings well protected for everyone's safety and I thank all of them for their hard work.

My sincere appreciation is also extended to our Vice-Chairman, Cllr Samantha Marshall, and to all my fellow Town Councillors for their continued support and commitment. It has been a great pleasure to work with them all in my capacity as Council Chairman and for the benefit of Horley.

I must also give thanks to our divisional Members, County Cllr Kay Hammond and County & Borough Cllr Graham Knight for meeting with us regularly and offering guidance, help and support on wide-ranging issues affecting the Horley community. I also extend this gratitude to the Leader of Reigate & Banstead Borough Council Leader, Cllr Mark Brunt, along with Borough Councillors and Officers who have made many undertakings to provide help to our residents and for supporting Horley Town Council through these unprecedented times.

My very best wishes are sent to the whole of the Horley community, bless you all and may we all look forward to much brighter and happier times ahead.



David Powell
Chairman and Town Mayor
April 2021



Leisure & Amenities

Committee Report 2020-21

Our Committee is responsible for four recreation areas: Horley Recreation Ground, Michael Crescent Centenary Park, Emlyn Meadows, and Court Lodge Playing Fields. We also look after Church Meadows on behalf of Reigate & Banstead Borough Council.

This year has been very difficult because of the COVID-19 pandemic, which forced the closure of some facilities at certain times, but we have done our best to allow residents to use facilities whenever possible.

With the tennis courts at Horley Recreation Ground refurbished at the start of 2020, the 'Tennis for free' coaching scheme for adults and children suffered a rather stop-start year with the changing restrictions, but we thank the organisers very much for their efforts. The Café in the Park is also now ready to use but has been unable to open due to the national lockdown. In the interim, the operators have been based out of a trailer in the car park selling refreshments, which has been very popular, and we look forward to seeing the café open and operating as normal. There will be a formal opening for both the café and the refurbished tennis courts when restrictions allow.

This year, we have not been able to host the usual range of events in Horley Recreation Ground and Court Lodge Playing Fields, all of which have been a big disappointment to residents. The circus was able to come to Horley Recreation Ground in September, which was hugely popular with residents as always.

The 'Horley in 2020' photographic competition had a very high standard of entries and my congratulations go to all the winners. It was wonderful to see so many residents were supportive of this competition. Thank you to our judges who looked through all the entries and had the difficult task of picking winners.

Both allotment sites (Church Road and Langshott) continue to go from strength to strength and we hope to be able to open the allotment site in Westvale Park sometime in 2022.

Our thanks go to County Councillor Kay Hammond for using her member's allowance to fund summer planters in Court Lodge and on Horley Row to brighten these locations. We submitted suggestions to Surrey County Council for their tree planting project and have been pleased to see new trees outside the entrance to the Church Road Allotments (on the corner of Sangers Drive) and on the corner of Russells Crescent and The Drive (opposite the Q Garden).

Horley is fortunate in having several volunteer groups that would normally help with group tasks, but this year their members have had to work as individuals instead. These include Horley Conservation Group, Gatwick Greenspace Partnership and the Q Garden volunteers. Our thanks to all the volunteers that help to improve the green spaces of Horley.

Finally, I would like to thank my valuable Vice-Chairman, Cllr Fiona Stimpson, and the other members of the L&A Committee for all their support and hard work. Also, my thanks to the members of the Horley Town Council staff, but a very special thanks to Carol Fenton, Head of Leisure & Deputy Clerk, as without her a lot of our successes would not happen.

Simon Marshall
Chairman, Leisure & Amenities
April 2021



Planning & Development Committee Report 2020-21

The Town Council is a statutory consultee on most planning applications within the parish boundary and the Planning & Development Committee acts for the Council on these matters. We also have a sub committee to review plans that have deadline dates prior to a meeting. Its decisions are ratified at the next meeting by the full committee, or a supplementary comment is submitted to the borough council.

The Committee also considers any planning matters from neighbouring authorities such as Crawley, Mole Valley and Tandridge Borough and District Councils, which may have an impact on the town and its residents.

During the past 12 months the Committee has considered a total of 257 Planning Applications for Horley. These comprise:

- 8 [1] Consultations from Surrey County Council (SCC) on schools and others from neighbouring authorities such as Crawley (including Gatwick Airport) and Mole Valley.
- 14 [9] large developments of 6 or more dwellings.
- 21 [36] small developments of less than 6 dwellings.
- 139 [106] extensions, loft conversions, conservatories, and fencing.
- 50 [45] covering tree preservation orders.
- 25 [35] commercial properties including changes of use for retail units.

These cover 12 months whilst the figures in [] are from last year's report and included for comparison purposes.

The Committee is also responsible for the following:

Gatwick Airport:

Through our on-going membership of the Gatwick Airport Consultative Committee [GATCOM] together with our appointment as a GATCOM member of the Noise and Track Monitoring Advisory Group [NATMAG] we are actively engaged in all airport matters as they may affect the local communities.

Compared to previous years this one has been somewhat quieter with several consultations paused due to COVID-19. These have included Route 4 re-design and the introduction of the existing northern runway into regular use.

Meetings with Gatwick Airport on surface access matters have resumed and centred around the introduction of the new terminal forecourt drop off charge.

The council has also participated, along with neighbouring parish councils, in regular virtual meetings with Gatwick Airport where issues affecting the local communities are discussed. This is also an opportunity for the airport to brief us on business activities at the airport both current and future.

Highways:

The A23/Bonehurst Rd is well known for its congestion particularly during the morning and evening rush hours. Over the years the road has been affected by additional traffic from The Acres/Langshott estates and the new North Gatwick Gateway commercial development. In addition, we are facing further traffic from West Vale Park East and the possibility of a new Aldi store. SCC Highways have not objected or commented upon any of these new sources of traffic as they are evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

The Town Council believes that no allowance has been taken into consideration as to the cumulative impacts on this main road; a view shared by Salfords and Sidlow Parish Council.



Planning & Development

Committee Report 2020-21 cont.

Both Councils have made their views known by submitting a joint request to the Surrey County Council Executive Member for Transport, Cllr Matt Furniss, for a traffic survey to be undertaken on the A23 from the Chequers roundabout to the Three Arch Road junction. Our request has received the backing of our County Councillors and the Borough Council.

Inevitably any discussion on Highways with residents centres around potholes or the deterioration in road surfaces. Massetts Road is the subject of much criticism, and rightly so, from residents and following work by the Town Council's ward members for that area, and others, it has been confirmed that it will be re-surfaced in the coming year.

One area which has tended to be overlooked is the poor state of our pavements with uneven surfaces having a particular impact on our elderly and disabled residents. To address these concerns the Council has set up the Pavement Audit Working Group comprising Councillors and residents.

This group identifies, from feedback from its Members, Councillors and residents areas of greatest concern and brings them to the attention of Surrey County Council Highways and our two County councillors. The group has achieved some early successes, but greater progress was hindered by site inspections being paused due to Covid-19. The group is led by Cllr Fiona Stimpson and all residents are encouraged to submit any pavement issues they have, and photographic evidence is particularly helpful. Her email address is fiona.stimpson@horleysurrey-tc.gov.uk

Horley Regeneration:

The development of West Vale Park continues apace with the primary school now open but on a phased basis which means that some children from this area will have to attend local schools in either Horley or Reigate.

There are several new projects being planned for the town centre. These are:

- 1] Introduction of pay on exit in the Central and Victoria Road car parks. We have been assured that the current overnight free parking will continue.
- 2] Improving the subway under the railway line to address the causes of flooding and generally enhance the local environment.
- 3] Improvements to the High St. from the precinct to the subway. These will include widening of the pavement on the east side, upgrades to street furniture and the addition of planters.
- 4] Re-development of the High St. car park with a mixture of retail/other commercial uses on the ground floor with residential above.

Horley Town Management Group:

We have attended several meetings with borough officers and other stakeholders in drafting the Supplementary Planning Document. In addition to the proposed business park an area of the site will be developed as a town park offering leisure and sporting facilities. The latter is an outstanding item from the 2005 Local Plan so we are keen for this facility to be built as soon as possible; that part of Horley being poorly served with open spaces.



Planning & Development

Committee Report 2020-21 cont.

Consultations:

In the past year, the Council has responded to the following consultations:

Consultations responded to:		
Consultation requested	Topic	Details
Civil Aviation Authority	Public Safety Zones	
Crawley Borough Council	Local Plan Consultation	
Department for Transport	Managing Parking on Pavements	
GATCOM	Stage 1 Night Flight Restrictions	
Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government	Planning System Reform Consultation 1	Changes to the current planning system
Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government	Planning System Reform Consultation 2	Planning for the future
Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government	Planning System Reform Consultation 3	Transparency and competition: a call for evidence on data on land control
Network Rail	Unblocking the Croydon Bottleneck Phase 2	
Reigate & Banstead Borough Council	Community Centres Consultation	
Reigate & Banstead Borough Council	Local Character & Distinctiveness Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document	

Planning Committee:

The committee meets monthly, and members of the public are encouraged to attend and address the committee on planning or other matters. Our determinations on planning applications are available to view on our web site together with our responses to consultations. I am also happy to take telephone calls or e-mails from residents on the workings of the committee and its decisions.

In conclusion, I would like to thank my Vice Chairman Councillor, Jerry Hudson, and all Members of the Committee for their hard work and support throughout the past year. My thanks, also to the Town Clerk and staff without whose support our job would be impossible.

Mike George
Chairman, Planning & Development Committee
April 2021



Finance & General Purposes Committee Report 2020-21

The last 12 months have certainly been a strange and difficult year for us all but, once again, it has been both an honour and a privilege to serve as the Finance & General Purposes Committee Chairman (albeit virtually!) and I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to the Council officers, to my Vice-Chairman Cllr Samantha Marshall, and to all the Committee members for all their hard work over the last twelve months.

Financial Year 2021-22

The Town Council Precept for 2021-22 has been set at a total net figure of £428,088. This means that the Town element of Council Tax will be an annual amount of £41.51 (just under 80p per week), representing an annual increase of £1.81 per Band D household (+ 4.56%). The Town Council is fully committed to maintaining all its services, as well as undertaking a continued programme of enhancements around the town.

The main Town Council project which will finally come to fruition this spring is the Café at the Horley Recreation Ground. The pandemic has caused many delays to this exciting venture, but we are all looking forward to the official opening very much. We hope that the local community will enjoy this new facility given that so much thought has gone into the project. Having such a facility has been a wish of this Council for a long time and it will be fantastic when it finally opens after so much hard work and planning.

The Town Council regularly reviews security in its recreation grounds and there continues to be a commitment for regular security patrols in all our parks to aid the safety of all members of public. The Council has also made provision for floral displays to enhance the town centre – as it does every year - for the benefit of residents and visitors.

Website, Town Guide and eNewsletter

The Town Council's website continues to provide vital information for residents, with statistics showing the mobile version of the site growing increasingly popular. Enhancements to the website have been made, we hope that residents are finding these useful, and that the site continues to be accessible to all.

The 2020 edition of the Town Guide was published in January both in print and digitally. Copies are still available from the Town Council offices, with a digital copy also available on our website. The Town Guide is funded through the advertising contained therein and provides key information to residents at no cost to this Council.

The Council staff also prepare a monthly e-newsletter with both Council and local news and events. We are continuing to get new subscribers every month, and we hope that residents find it informative.

In a tough financial climate, Horley Town Council remains committed to providing and enhancing facilities that meet the community's needs, and in doing so, achieving them at best value.

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented challenges to us all, including Horley Town Council, but hopefully as the year progresses, we might be able to get back to some kind of normality. In the meantime, I hope that you and your families stay safe and well.

Once again, my thanks to all Committee Members and especially to the office staff for their continued support throughout what has been a challenging year.

Helen Kitajewski
**Chairman, Finance & General Purposes
Committee**

April 2021

