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HORLEY TOWN COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT
2013 - 2014

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Presented at Annual Town
Meeting on 25 April 2014

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INTRODUCTION



The Annual Report is issued by Horley Town Council and we trust you will find it to be an interesting insight into our business and other activities over the past municipal year.

Included in this publication are reports from the Chairman and Town Mayor, as well as all the statutory reports made by the Town Council's Committee Chairmen, all of which will be presented at the Town Meeting on 25 April 2014. It also includes a variety of information and statistics. At the time of producing this Annual Report our accounts for 2013/14 are not yet available, but we have included financial information relating to the financial year 2012/13. The unaudited accounts for 2013/14 will be made available to the public for inspection from 16 June until 29 June 2014. We expect to publish the audited Annual Return on our website in October 2014.

A list of all the Town Councillors and their representation on committees and outside bodies is included in the next few pages. An electronic copy of this report is also available from our website www.horleysurrey-tc.gov.uk.

We have been delighted to launch our new-look website recently, which will continue to be reviewed with regular news updates, Council Agenda and Minutes, together with a variety of community and business information.

Lastly, if you have any queries relating to the information contained in this document, please contact the Town Council Offices at:

92 Albert Road, Horley RH6 7HZ

Telephone: 01293 784765 email: town.clerk@zen.co.uk.

Alan Jones

Town Clerk

11 April 2014

STATISTICS AND INFORMATION



The Town Council is administered as a first tier local government authority in an area whose County Authority responsibilities are maintained by Surrey County Council and whose District Council responsibilities are maintained by Reigate & Banstead Borough Council.

There are approximately 22,000 people residing within the boundary of this Town Council of which 17,172 are registered electors as at 1 April 2014.

The Precept is collected on the Town Council's behalf by Reigate & Banstead Borough Council. For the fiscal year 2014/15, it is set at £ 293,543. This equates to a sum of £34.62 per band D household. Please refer to the Finance Chairman's report for more details about the changes in tax base.

THE MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL ARE:

- Edmonds Community Hall (Albert Rooms) Lettings
- Allotments
- Bay Close Open Space
- Children's Playgrounds
- Christmas Tree (Town Centre)
- Church Meadows
- Court Lodge Fields
- Emlyn Meadows
- Football Pitch Hire at Court Lodge Fields
- Hanging Baskets
- Horley in Bloom
- Horley in Spring
- Horley Recreation Ground
- Innes Pavilion (Court Lodge Playing Fields)
- Michael Crescent Centenary Park
- Newsletter Production
- Planning and Development Consultation
- Riverside Garden Park
- Riverside Walk
- Saturday Market
- South & South East in Bloom
- Tennis Courts
- Town Centre Planters
- Town Guide
- War Memorial
- Website and Social Networking
- Working in Partnership with the Horley & District Chamber of Commerce
- Working in Partnership with the Horley Town Management Group
- Working in Partnership with Reigate & Banstead Borough Council
- Working in Partnership with Surrey County Council
- Yattendon Road Recreation Ground

TOWN COUNCILLORS

Horley North (4)

Simon Marshall	CON	12 Castle Drive, Horley RH6 9DB	784765
Valerie Marshall	CON	12 Castle Drive Horley, RH6 9DB	784765
Michael Miller	CON	50 Haroldslea Drv, Horley RH6 9DU	784201
Jan Spratt	CON	92 Albert Road, Horley RH6 7HZ	784765

Horley North Central (3)

Kevin Hagerty	CON	46 Massetts Road Horley, RH6 7DS	820500
David Powell	CON	48 Fairfield Ave, Horley RH6 7PD	774695
Fiona Stimpson	CON	19 Church Road, Horley RH6 7EY	784965

Horley North East (2)

Jack Chapman	CON	43 Bonehurst Road, Horley RH6 8PJ	786165
Dr Richard Olliver	CON	2 Limes Avenue, Horley, RH6 9DH	786710

Horley North West (4)

Mike George	RA	31 Rutherwick Close, Horley RH6 8RD	411655
Tony Schofield	CON	Heronwood House, Langshott Wood Horley RH6 9LN	824450
Roy Sherwin	CON	Little Manor, Apperlie Drive, Horley RH6 9EU	771485
Celia Austin	IND	92 Albert Road, Horley RH6 7HZ	784765

Horley South Central (3)

Richard Bethell	CON	1 Hamilton Close, Horley, RH6 7HW	783195
Mo Goldsmith	CON	92 Albert Road, Horley RH6 7HZ	784765
Michael Robinson	CON	243 Balcombe Road, Horley RH6 9EF	821001

Horley South East (2)

James Baird	CON	92 Albert Road, Horley RH6 7HZ	784765
Samantha Marshall	CON	92 Albert Road, Horley RH6 7HZ	784765

POLITICAL BALANCE OF THE COUNCIL

Committees

Leisure & Amenities Committee

Conservative Party	13	93%
Residents' Assoc. / Independent	1	7%
	<u>14</u>	

Finance & General Purposes Committee

Conservative Party	9	82%
Residents' Assoc. / Independent	2	18%
	<u>11</u>	

Planning & Development Committee

Conservative Party	8	80%
Residents' Assoc. /Independent	2	20%
	<u>10</u>	

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP – 2013/2014

Chairman & Town Mayor: Cllr Richard Olliver
Vice-Chairman & Deputy Town Mayor: Cllr Mike George

Leisure & Amenities Committee

J Baird
R Bethell
J Chapman (Vice-Chairman)
M George
M Goldsmith
Samantha Marshall
Simon Marshall (Chairman)
V Marshall
R Olliver
D Powell
M Robinson
R Sherwin
J Spratt
F Stimpson

Finance & General Purposes Committee

C Austin
J Baird (Vice-Chairman)
R Bethell
M George
M Goldsmith
Simon Marshall
M Miller
R Olliver
D Powell
M Robinson
R Sherwin (Chairman)

Planning & Development Committee

C Austin
J Chapman
M George (Chairman)
K Hagerty
Simon Marshall
M Miller
R Olliver
T Schofield (Vice-Chairman)
J Spratt
F Stimpson

SUB-COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS 2013/14

Sub-Committee	Councillor(s)	Reporting to
Awards Sub-Committee	Mo Goldsmith, Simon Marshall, Richard Olliver, David Powell	Full Council
Corporate Plan Sub-Committee	Jack Chapman, Mike George, Richard Olliver, David Powell, Roy Sherwin	Full Council
Edmonds Management Committee	Council Chairman, F&GP Chairman, David Powell	Full Council
Horley Town Council and Reigate & Banstead Borough Council Liaison Committee	Council Chairman & Committee Chairmen	Full Council
Leaders' Group	Chairmen (plus Vice-Chairmen)	Full Council/ Committee concerned
Police Liaison Committee	Jack Chapman, Mike George, Simon Marshall, Richard Olliver, Tony Schofield	Full Council
Staff Sub-Committee	Chairman & Vice Chairman of Council, Committee Chairmen	Full Council
Strategy & Forward Planning Group	Richard Bethell, James Baird, David Powell, Tony Schofield, Roy Sherwin (other members as requested)	Full Council
Planning Applications Sub-Committee	P&D Chairman & Vice-Chairman, Richard Olliver	Planning & Development
Communications Sub-Committee	James Baird, Mike George, Samantha Marshall, Richard Olliver, Michael Robinson	Finance & General Purposes

SUB-COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS 2013/14

Sub-Committee	Councillor(s)	Reporting to
Internal Audit Review Sub-Committee	F&GP Chairman and Vice-Chairman	Finance & General Purposes
Standing Orders Sub-Committee	Chairman of Council Committee Chairmen, James Baird	Finance & General Purposes
Grounds Maintenance Sub-Committee	Jack Chapman, Simon Marshall, David Powell	Leisure & Amenities
Himalayan Balsam Action Group	Richard Bethell, Jack Chapman, Mo Goldsmith, Simon Marshall, Valerie Marshall, David Powell, Jan Spratt	Leisure & Amenities
Horley in Bloom Advisory Committee	Jack Chapman, Richard Bethell, Mike George, Simon Marshall, Valerie Marshall, Fiona Stimpson, Marcia Atkinson, Monica Read plus Members of other local organisations	Leisure & Amenities
Horley Open Spaces Advisory Committee	Richard Bethell, Jack Chapman, Mike George, Samantha Marshall, Simon Marshall, Valerie Marshall, David Powell, Fiona Stimpson, Ian Wright (RBBC), Cllr Kay Hammond, Pete Crawford (GGP), Kevin Lerwill (GGP) Cathy Cooper (local resident), Paul Capper (Horley Piscatorial), John Davies (Horley Piscatorial)	Leisure & Amenities

OUTSIDE BODIES 2013/2014

Outside Body	Councillors	Reporting to
Gatwick Airport Consultative Committee (GATCOM)	Mike George Fiona Stimpson (Sub)	Planning & Development
Gatwick Diamond Business	Richard Bethell	Planning & Development
Horley Regeneration Forum	P&D Chairman & Vice-Chairman Richard Olliver	Planning & Development
Horley Town Management Group (HTMG)	Simon Marshall, S&FP representative, Richard Olliver (Sub)	Planning & Development
Borough Standards Committee	Richard Bethell	Finance & General Purposes
Surrey Association of Local Councils (Surrey ALC)	Richard Olliver	Finance & General Purposes
Carnival Advisory Committee	Mike George, Mo Goldsmith, Samantha Marshall, Valerie Marshall, Roy Sherwin, Fiona Stimpson plus members of other local organisations	Leisure & Amenities
Churchyards Committee	Mike George, David Powell	Leisure & Amenities
Gatwick Greenspace Partnership	Mike George, Simon Marshall	Leisure & Amenities

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2013/2014



It was a great honour to be elected Chairman and Town Mayor for a second year.

Once again there have been substantial challenges for the Town Council this year. We have been able to convert the Innes Pavilion into a potentially significant Community Centre after the Horley Sports and Social Club vacated the premises. The Baptist Church is currently using it as a temporary home. This gives us time to plan for its long term use as a hall in the middle of Court Lodge. We are also in the early stages of negotiations on the possible use of the refurbished Tanyard Barn in the Acres estate as another Community Centre.

The transfer of the allotments in the Acres has been delayed while the soil has been improved, the layout organised and legal matters finalised. These plots should soon be available to local residents and will reduce the waiting list for allotments in the town.

We have had another very successful year in the South & South East in Bloom Competition, where we once again obtained two Silver Gilt awards. I was delighted to see the town looking so colourful and welcoming.

The Town Council continues to try and improve facilities for its residents on a very small budget.

You may have seen my regular news items in RH6 Uncovered magazine. Our new Town Guide has also been welcomed throughout the town and in neighbouring villages.

If you have any views on issues about the Town or how we could improve things, please let us know.

My thanks must go to my Vice-Chairman and Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr Mike George, for all his support and hard work. I would also like to thank the Chairmen of the major committees and all the members of the Council for all they do and for the enormous amount of effort they put into trying to make Horley a better place for all its residents.

We owe a vote of thanks to the hard work put in by the Town Clerk: Alan Jones; Deputy Town Clerk: Carol Fenton; Administrative Officers: Joan Walsh / Rose Cavanagh, and our Parks Warden and all round helper: Roy Martin.

Richard J Oliver

Chairman and Town Mayor

1 April 2014

Key Challenge of the Year ended 31 March 2014

The year just ended was probably one of the most challenging of recent years.

In last year's report we flagged up the possibility of difficulties at the Innes Sports Pavilion at Court Lodge. The resolution of the unsafe roof cost significantly more than was originally anticipated. Our Tenant, the Horley Sports & Social Club, was wound up without any cash to meet its legal commitments to maintain the roof.

We were left to pick up the entire bill, as well as losing the income from the lease. The building is now secure for the next 20 years and the work was finished at an opportune time that has enabled the Baptist Church to rent the community space for a year, whilst they complete their own building work.

The cost impact was more than reserves could safely accommodate so we took out a £70k loan repayable in instalments over 5 years. This translates to an annual charge of £14.7K, the equivalent of a 3% tax increase without taking mitigating actions. The mitigating action has been to put capital improvements on hold, as well as to squeeze current expenditure.

Council Tax Increase (Town Element)

The Town Council is not Government Capped but reflecting the government guideline of a 2% maximum, the increase in Town Council Precept was held to just under this level. Having taken the view that the emergency short term loan should be considered a "charge" on our General Reserves, we plan to begin and end the coming financial year (14/15) with reserves as follows:

	1.04.14	31.03.15
Gross General Reserves	140k	137k
Less Loan Outstanding	<u>70k</u>	<u>55k</u>
Free Reserves	£70k	£82k

Free Reserves need to be in the region of 3-4 months Gross Spend which puts the requirement at about £110k. The 13/14 accounts are in the early stages of preparation but will show an "underspend", which, together with an unbudgeted £10k grant in the coming year from the Gatwick Airport Community Trust (it is contingent upon Gatwick Airport continuing to support the fund) means we should achieve the more satisfactory £110k level by the end of 14/15 (31.03.15), albeit having again put any capital improvements on hold.



Budgeted Funding Requirement for 14/15

Your Council has set a net funding requirement for the current year of £315k. This is broken down as follows:

	£k	
Net Non-Open Spaces Costs	168	Mainly salary, General Admin, & Insurance less Edmonds Hall lettings & Interest
Grounds, Playgrounds, Town Centre	95	Day to day spends – no Capital costs
Loan Repayments (inc Interest)	34	Albert Rooms & Innes Pavilion
Contingency & Grants	8	
Requirement to smooth future costs	10	Building Maintenance & Election Costs
Total	<u>315</u>	

Funded by:

Horley Town Council	294	Tax = £34.62 for a band D house
Council Tax Support Grant from RBBC	21	see explanation below
Total	<u>315</u>	

Council Tax Support Grant from Reigate & Banstead Borough Council

Following the transfer of responsibility from Government to Local Authority for Council Tax Discounts, the Government gave a fixed grant to RBBC in 12/13 to cover most of the additional cost. This included £21k for the Horley Share. This amount was included in the governments RBBC funding grant for 13/14. Regrettably the Government did not make it a legal requirement that the grant should be passed down. Whilst we agreed with Borough for the figure to be maintained in 14/15 there is no guarantee that it will be maintained after this. If government funding calculations and rules are unchanged, any reduction in the grant from RBBC would impact directly and in our view, unfairly, on your Horley tax. This is a major issue countrywide and we have made the appropriate representations.

Double Taxation

Last year's report referred to the issue of paying for our own facilities as well as contributing our 15% to similar facilities and Park improvements in the rest of the Borough. The Grounds/Playgrounds figure above gives some idea of the costs that might be taken into consideration, although it has to be accepted that the price to be paid for having a Town Council is that some of these costs are born locally. The Borough has accepted the principle of Double Taxation but there is a little way to go to agree the extent. Horley is set up differently from Salfords & Sidlow whose small grounds are taken care of by the Borough, and because there are no other local councils in the Borough, there are no neighbouring parishes/towns with which to compare. In addition to the day to day maintenance, a way forward also needs to be agreed for Capital spends on playgrounds and our open spaces. The resolution of these issues is a priority for your council.

“The year just ended was probably one of the most challenging of recent years”



Town Council meeting

Acknowledgements

Once again I thank all the staff for their help and diligence. This year, I would particularly like to acknowledge the work of the Clerk and the Communications Sub-Committee in updating and implementing our new website. It is essential that we have the ability for good two way communication with our residents.

Roy Sherwin

Chairman, Finance & General Purposes Committee

10 April 2014



The Town Council provides and maintains four recreation areas. These are Horley Recreation Ground, Court Lodge Fields, Emlyn Meadows and Michael Crescent Centenary Park. Also, under devolved powers, we maintain on behalf of Reigate & Banstead Borough Council the following – Riverside Garden Park, Yattendon Road Recreation Ground, Church Meadows, Bay Close Open Space and Riverside Walk.

I would like to thank the many members who have supported me during the year by giving up their time at the weekends to make inspections of the recreation areas.

I was very pleased that we maintained our high standards and won two Silver Gilt awards for the second successive year in the South & South East in Bloom Competition.

Our own Horley in Spring and Horley in Bloom Competitions were well-supported this year, with an increase in the number of entries. This was a tremendous effort by all who took part, including the judges and our hard-working staff. These competitions are now very popular.

Our association with Gatwick Greenspace has again proved to be a great asset, with a number of projects taking place around the town. Many thanks to Kevin Lerwill for all his help.

Cllr David Powell and his band of helpers have done an excellent job in removing the large amounts of Himalayan Balsam in a number of our recreation areas and our thanks go to them. Himalayan Balsam is an invasive plant that grows up to 10 ft. high, particularly on river banks. This is an on-going project that will take several years to complete.

Horley Recreation Ground has again been busy this year, with a funfair, a circus and a carnival, all of which were well-supported.

This is still a long waiting list for allotments. The Church Road allotments are popular and well-used and a new boundary fence has now been erected there. The new allotments at The Acres are still not operational but we hope that they will be within the next few months.

Finally, I would like to thank my very valuable Vice- Chairman, Cllr Jack Chapman, and the other members of the Leisure Committee for all their support and hard work, and a very special thank you to the staff - Alan Jones, Carol Fenton, Joan Walsh, Rose Cavanagh and Roy Martin.

Simon Marshall

Chairman, Leisure & Amenities Committee

9 April 2014

The Town Council is a legal consultee on all planning applications within the parish boundary and the Planning & Development Committee acts for the Council on these matters.

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 year the Committee has considered a total of 244 [219] Planning Applications for Horley. These comprise:-

14 [8] Consultations from Surrey County Council (SCC) on schools and others from neighbouring authorities such as Crawley (including Gatwick Airport) and Mole Valley;

22 [16] for large developments of 6 or more dwellings;

15 [15] for small developments of less than 6 dwellings;

125 [107] for extensions, loft conversions, conservatories and fencing;

45 [44] covering tree preservation orders;

23 [29] for commercial properties including changes of use for retail units.

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 re-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.

During the past year we have attended seminars on surface access and noise.

As I forecasted last year, airport matters have taken up a lot of time and attention, particularly as a possible second runway at Gatwick has been short listed by the Airports Commission. Over the winter we have received presentations from Gatwick Airport Ltd [GAL], the Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign and Gatwick Diamond Business. At this time the Town Council has not formed a view either way on a proposed second runway and we have yet to decide what or if we will respond to the three runway options in the current GAL Consultation.

Through NATMAG we have been in discussion with GAL and the National Air Traffic Services on the number of aircraft which overfly Horley in contravention of the regulations and the reasons for this. We have proposed some small changes in the way flights are managed such that they avoid the town but meet NATS' requirements. It should be noted that not all aircraft overflying the town are from Gatwick; a number are from Heathrow which are not subject to any restrictions.

Highways Matters:

I have yet to write an annual report which does not mention pot holes and this year is no different. The state of our roads remains a major concern to residents and the Town Council continues to log road defects with Surrey County Council [SCC], as they are reported by Councillors and members of the public.

Under Project Horizon, several roads in the town are due for major work which could include attention to the roads' foundations. We have been assured that this work is within budget and therefore is not under threat of being cancelled, however, with resources having to be re-directed to the north of the county, as a result of the recent flooding, this programmes looks to have slipped some ten weeks.

Residents will no doubt have noticed the recent reversal of the traffic flow in the service road around the Central car park. This is an eighteen month trial and part of a project to ease traffic congestion affecting the junction of Consort Way East with Victoria Road and the entrance to the Waitrose car park. The project has the support of local businesses. Another element of the project will be to carry out a further review of the traffic light phasing at the junction of Consort Way East and Victoria Road.

Local Transport:

The only matter to report on this year is the new bus route serving The Acres. The proposal to have the bus exit the development by the community centre and travel along Langshott Lane, before turning into Wheatfield Way, gave cause for concern with the lane being very narrow. SCC Highways Department has now addressed this with the planned introduction of passing bays, though we have reservations that this will address our concerns. My thanks to my Vice-Chairman, who has been very active in discussions with local residents and the Highways Department on this matter.

Horley Regeneration:

The Acres Development continues apace with the construction of the new community centre expected to begin shortly which may well be taken over by the Town Council. The Anvil 21 assisted living facility opened its doors this year and very impressive it is. Construction of the primary school has started and it will receive its first pupils in September this year.

There is little to report on the North West development with speculation that the developers prefer to complete The Acres first.

In the Court Lodge area, Amherst House Care Home is about to receive its first residents. This is another first class facility for the elderly in the town. The construction of the new Baptist Church should commence in June this year. At the opposite end of the estate work has started on thirty new dwellings on the site of the former Rosemary Court.

Regrettably our Business Workshop did not take place due to a very poor response from local companies and businesses. The Council is considering other ways of engaging with the local business community.

A matter of major concern this year has been the Permitted Development Rights, which allow the conversion of offices into residential use. This means that landlords can apply for Change of Use and the Borough Council, as the planning authority, must grant approval.

Office blocks which have received change of use are Premier Buildings in Victoria Road, Beulah Court in Albert Road, Consort House in Consort Way and the office block in Victoria Road, opposite Lidl. The Consort House application gave us great cause for concern as, unlike the other sites, this is in current use by local businesses employing some 300 people. We took the matter up with Sam Gyimah MP, DCLG and GDB. We pointed out that this site was in use and would displace local jobs and businesses, in a town centre which itself is a regeneration area. The DCLG's response was to reiterate the government's policy to address the housing shortage by converting office accommodation and whether it was occupied did not seem to make any difference.

Conservation Areas and Residential Areas of Special Character:

Following a seminar at Reigate Town Hall we were invited to submit any new Conservation Areas, of which we currently have two, and Residential Areas of Special Character [RASC] with none currently in force in the town. We did not see a requirement for any increase in either. As part of the review we were also asked for suggestions for areas of land to be designated as Urban Open Spaces.

We looked at any open space, regardless of ownership, which could accommodate one or more dwellings and submitted some 30 + sites. Examples submitted were the Cheyne Walk roundabout and the grassed areas either side of the junction of Greenfields Road and Kingsley Road.

Horley Town Management Group:

The major project for the Group this year has been the engagement of the company Metamorphosis to carry out a town centre audit. This has included resident and business surveys and workshops with a cross section of local residents. This project will continue for the remainder of this calendar year.

Flooding:

Many parts of Horley have been affected by flooding this winter, probably the worst since 1968, with the Balcombe Road area particularly badly affected, with residents having to be evacuated from their homes. A local Flood Forum has been established with the Borough and County Councils working together with The Environment Agency and Thames Water. Longer term there will have to be a town-wide review of flooding, its causes and mitigation against future severe weather events. The Town Council is assisting in this by collecting evidence from local residents. Any future discussions will have to involve GAL as any actions or mitigation carried out by them will have a positive or negative affect on the River Mole downstream from the airport. They have already made a commitment to attend any meetings on this matter.

Consultations:

In the past year the Council has responded to the following consultations overleaf.

MVDC	Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule
RBBC	Housing	Affordable Housing SPD
SCC	Surrey Future Partnership	Congestion Programme
SCC	Surrey Future Partnership	Surrey Rail Strategy Report
Department for Transport (DfT)	Air Navigation	Guidance to the CAA
Horsham District Council	Planning Framework	Preferred Strategy
SCC	Surrey Cycling Strategy	Cycling Debate
DfT	Airports Commission	Gatwick Runway Options
GAL	London Airspace	Proposed Route Changes
GAL	London Airspace	Gatwick LAMP
Department for Transport (DfT)	Gatwick Airport Expansion	Views by Gatwick Diamond (GDB)

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 website together with our responses to consultations. I am also happy to take telephone calls or emails from residents on the workings of the committee and its decisions.

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

Mike George

Chairman, Planning & Development Committee

4 April 2014

MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS 2013/2014



- Litter picking at Court Lodge Fields, prior to spraying of Himalayan Balsam
- St George's Day celebrations in Town Centre
- Opening Drive, Horley Bowling Club
- Prize Giving at Horley Flower Club competition
- St George's Day celebrations by Reigate District Scouts
- Horley Business Expo
- Town Meeting
- Magna Carta and World War 1 Civic Day, Woking
- Cheque presentation to St Catherine's Hospice
- Crowning of May King and Queen, Charlwood Village Infant School
- Cheque presentation to St John Ambulance
- Service of Thanksgiving for 60th Anniversary of Coronation, Guildford Cathedral
- Chairmen's Networking Day, Felbridge Hotel
- Surrey Mayors' Association Welcome
- AGM of Reigate District Scout Council
- Community Foundation for Surrey – Garden Party
- Armed Forces Week Service, Guildford Cathedral
- Armed Forces Week – Raising the Flag and Signing Community Covenant
- County Rainbow Day
- Horley Singers Summer Concert
- Horley in Bloom Judging
- Langshott School Sports Day & Summer Fair
- Himalayan Balsam Clearance
- Reigate & Banstead Civic Service
- South & South East in Bloom Judging
- Launch of new scanner at Gatwick Park Hospital
- Horley Carnival
- Wheels for Troops Weekend
- 1st Birthday of SUSY Radio
- AGM of Queen Elizabeth Foundation Vocational Services
- Opening of British Taekwondo Poomsae School of Excellence at Horley Leisure Centre
- Photocall at former Newman House site
- Surrey Mayors' AGM & Garden Party
- 100th Birthday Party for resident at Barnfield
- Induction of Rev Shane Wood and Licensing of Rev Michaela Wood
- Surrey Poppy Appeal Launch
- Lighting of Bonfire at Round Table Fireworks Display (attended by Cllr George)
- Opening of Garden of Remembrance
- Remembrance Parade and Service
- Two Minutes Silence in town centre
- Anvil Court Open Day (The Acres)
- Opening of Morrison's Local
- Switching on town centre Christmas lights
- Presentation of prizes at Horley Flower Club Christmas show
- Surrey Singers Christmas Concert
- Horley Methodist Church Christmas Tree Service
- Town Centre Carol Service & Councillors' Hospitality
- Crawley Borough Council Civic Reception
- Meeting with representatives of the Gatwick Airport Conservation Campaign
- Presentation of Commonwealth Flag at County Hall, Kingston
- Poppy Appeal Cadet Competition Presentation Night
- Raising the Commonwealth Flag in the Memorial Gardens
- Meeting regarding County Association participation in South of England Show
- Opening of marketing suite, Amherst House Care Home

HIMALAYAN BALSAM (HB)

HORLEY TOWN COUNCIL'S ERADICATION PLANS



HIMALAYAN BALSAM (HB)



Large Stand of HB on West Bank of River Mole



Stand of HB growing up to 8 feet high

Horley is the main distribution centre of HB on the River Mole and adjoining streams in Surrey. Why Horley? Because we are upstream on the River Mole, relatively close to its starting point, with a significant wetland area, relatively free of built-up areas and with open land for it to proliferate.

Gatwick Airport and Crawley are a little further up-stream, but HB has proliferated on a relatively small scale, due to industrialisation and extensive built-up of areas adjacent to the river. Upstream treatment is crucial to dealing with the problem, as the annual plant re-grows from its own seeds, which are then carried downstream. This process is rapidly spreading the plant along the Mole Valley. That is not to say that it doesn't travel upstream. The ripe seed pods explode the seeds over a wide area, thus infesting upstream at a slower pace. It also spreads the plant onto adjoining streams, in Horley's instance the Burstow and Salford streams. This process is then a short step away from it appearing on farmland and road-side ditches.

The plant grows from a seedling in mid spring and grows up to 8 feet in a little over 16 weeks, growing at an average rate of 6 inches per week. The plant has stems up to 1½ inches thick and it grows en-masse, supporting growth in a block to compensate for a very shallow root mass little larger than a shaving brush. Such is the density of growth, it often smothers out all other plant life, so that when the plants die down in winter, the river banks are left destitute of soil and devoid of plant root networks, which are vital to ensure soil stability. This results in soil erosion, with banks collapsing into the river, causing river pinch points with potential flooding.

Downstream from Horley, the Mole Valley embankments have been totally taken over by HB all the way to Dorking and beyond. It is reported to be in danger of reaching the River Thames at Hampton Court. Between Horley and Dorking, it has travelled some miles on the Leigh stream to the village of Leigh.

It has also started to appear in roadside ditches throughout the area and across local authority boundaries. Such is the scale of the problem, a concerted effort by spraying and community volunteers pulling it up is required. These efforts will be needed for years to come. Areas of operations will have to be prioritised, with break point areas created to slow its invasive advance.

HIMALAYAN BALSAM (HB)



When natural habitats are massively altered, wildlife always takes a hit. With HB completely covering embankments from the water's edge, habitats for water voles and moorhens disappear. In the peak growth period of 2013, there was evidence of wild deer drinking from the River Mole in the Court Lodge area, after finding a gap to access the water, but then having great difficulty in finding a way through the HB barrier on the vertical embankment. There was evidence of significant HB thrashing at river level, which could only have been caused by a large animal trying to find a way back up the steep embankment.

The Challenges

- The need to trace farmers owning land on both sides of the streams and River Mole in order to achieve access permissions, both for volunteer working teams and for a vehicle to carry jerry cans containing gallons of water.
- Due to the scale of the problem, a minimum of two volunteers with the appropriate spray qualifications are needed in order to operate both on land and water.
- Mustering a sufficient number of volunteers to make up working parties during July to pull-up HB, where they appear in small quantities spread over wide areas, and to undertake other tasks such as litter picking and rubbish removal.
- In order to tackle the HB problem across country, with few river access points, spraying from flat bottom boats and camping overnight with support volunteers may be the only way to deal with it.
- Establishing plans and methods to seed and plant grasses and other deep rooted plants in the right balance. Plant selection should be based on the embankment collapse risks. Thus deep rooted plants such as nettles and thorn bush should be used where embankment collapse risks are high, but grasses are preferable in places where collapse risks are low.
- Keeping up the momentum for many years to come.
- **Volunteers are welcome. If you are willing to join us, please let us have your name and email address and we will send you email to let you know when, where and how you can help.**



Horley Edmonds Community Fund

The Horley Edmonds Community Fund is a permanent capital fund. It was established with a capital sum of £105,000 for initial start-up for grants from a bequest from Cyril Edmonds. The capital sum has been invested and the interest generated is used each year in perpetuity to award grants to support community projects and activities in Horley.

Accounting Period: 01 April 2013 to 31 December 2013

Fund Established: 2008

Capital Statement

Horley Edmonds Endowment Fund

	Credit	Debit	
Market Value of fund at 01 April 2013			£109,275.43

Grant Fund Statement

Horley Edmonds Fund

	Credit	Debit	
Opening Balance at 01 April 2013			£6,627.55
Dividend Receipts	£3,012.84		
Management fees		£1,231.41	
Grant Payments		£3,473.59	
TOTAL	£3,012.84	£4,705.00	
Balance available for grant making at 31 December 2013			£4,935.39

Statement of Grants Given 01 April 2013 to 31 December 2013

Date	Applicant	Amount	Note
01/04/2013	Delta Club	£1,000.00	Regular social activities for disabled adults in Horley
03/07/2013	Horley Flower Club	£959.59	New speakers and microphones to enhance demonstrations at a flower club in Horley, particularly for the benefit of elderly or hard of hearing members.
16/09/2013	Horley Singers	£514.00	Music for Christmas Concert at Horley Methodist Church
16/09/2013	Archway Theatre Company	£1,000.00	Equipment to enable the establishment of a community cinema in Horley

4 grants given to the value of £3,473.59

TOWN AWARDS

The Town Awards scheme has been in operation since 2000, with the first awards being presented at the Annual Town Meeting of 10 April 2000.

Nominations for Town Awards are invited every year, when any resident can complete a nomination form, together with a seconder, to propose an individual for outstanding service or commitment to the town. Horley Town Council is responsible for the administration and final selection of award winners according to strict guidelines and criteria.

The Awards Sub Committee reviews the nominations and makes its recommendations to the Council. Award winners receive a Town Badge, a Certificate of Commendation and their Citation. Presentations are usually made at the Town Meeting or at other appropriate events such as the Horley in Bloom Awards Ceremony, subject to the award winners' approval.

This year we have been delighted to present awards to Miss Ann Middlecote and retired Police Constable, Ian Yeo.

Ann Middlecote has been a dedicated and dependable Clerk to the Smith's Charity, Horley for over 40 years, providing much needed support to the Trustees. She has given loyal service to this worthy cause, which has enabled the local community to benefit from the Charity.

Ian Yeo was given this Award for his exceptional policing to the town of Horley, over many years. Ian was described as "an all-round nice bloke and a good cop who knows virtually everyone in the town and is well respected by the community and colleagues alike."

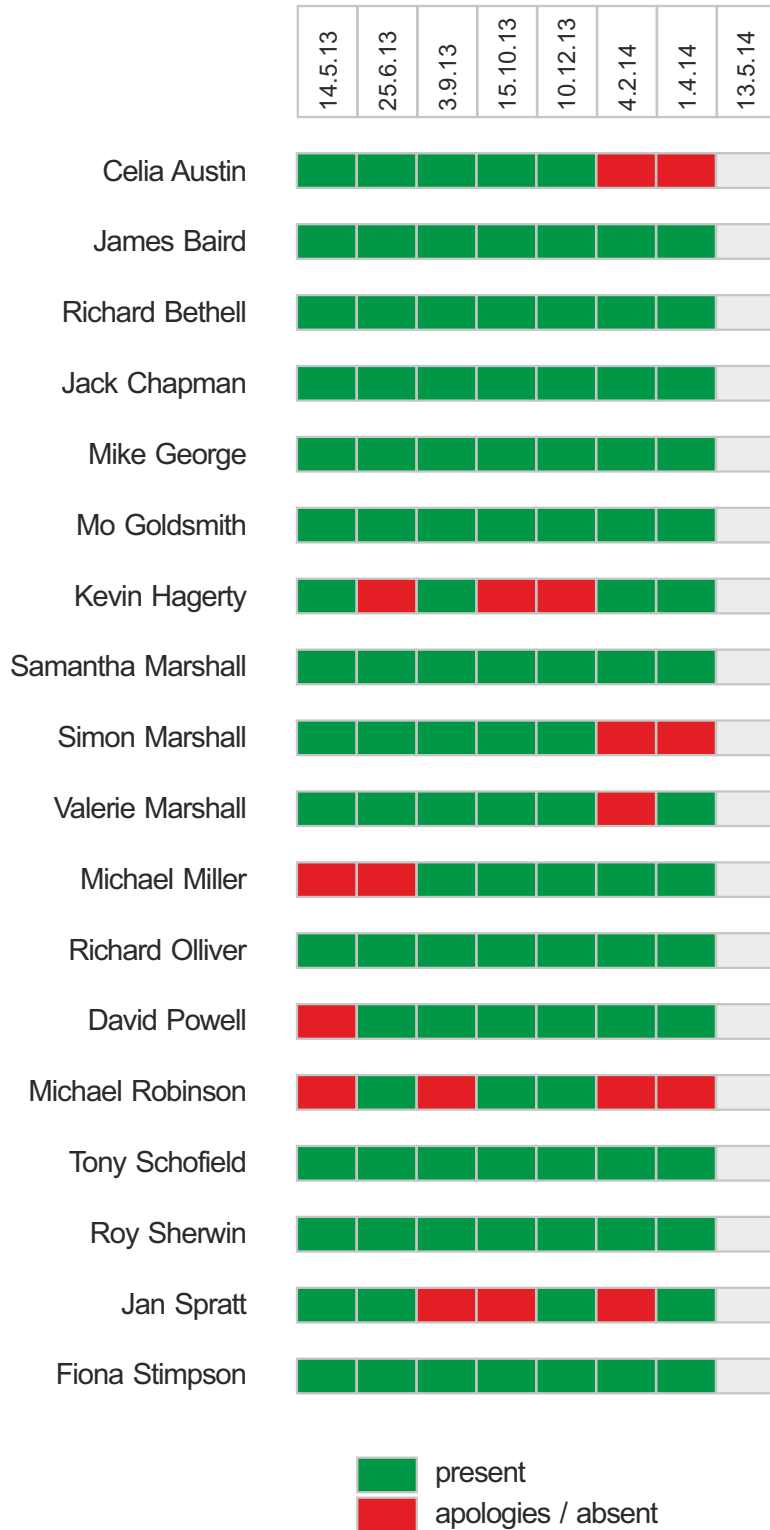
Previous recipients of the Town Award:-

- 2012** **Doug Kilborn**
 Peter Moxley
- 2011** **Veronica Ballard**
 Alison Brice
- 2010** **Dr Jim Williamson**
 Kathleen Tremble
 (Posthumous Award)
- 2009** **Tom Anglim**
- 2008** **Robert Garfitt**
 Andrew Partridge
- 2007** **Andrew Kent**
- 2007** **Alan Tracey**
- 2005** **Barbara Hall**
- 2005** **David Hall**
- 2005** **John Melvin**
- 2004** **Gordon McGinty**
- 2004** **Gill Partridge**
- 2004** **Douglas Simpson**
- 2002** **Walter Jupp and Doreen Jupp**
- 2002** **John McFarlane**
- 2002** **John Rigby**
- 2000** **Graham Larcombe**
- 2000** **Joan Fewtrell and Syd Fewtrell**
- 2000** **Lew Targett**
- 2000** **Penny Jeffers**
- 2000** **Richard Smith**
- 2000** **Andy Thompson**



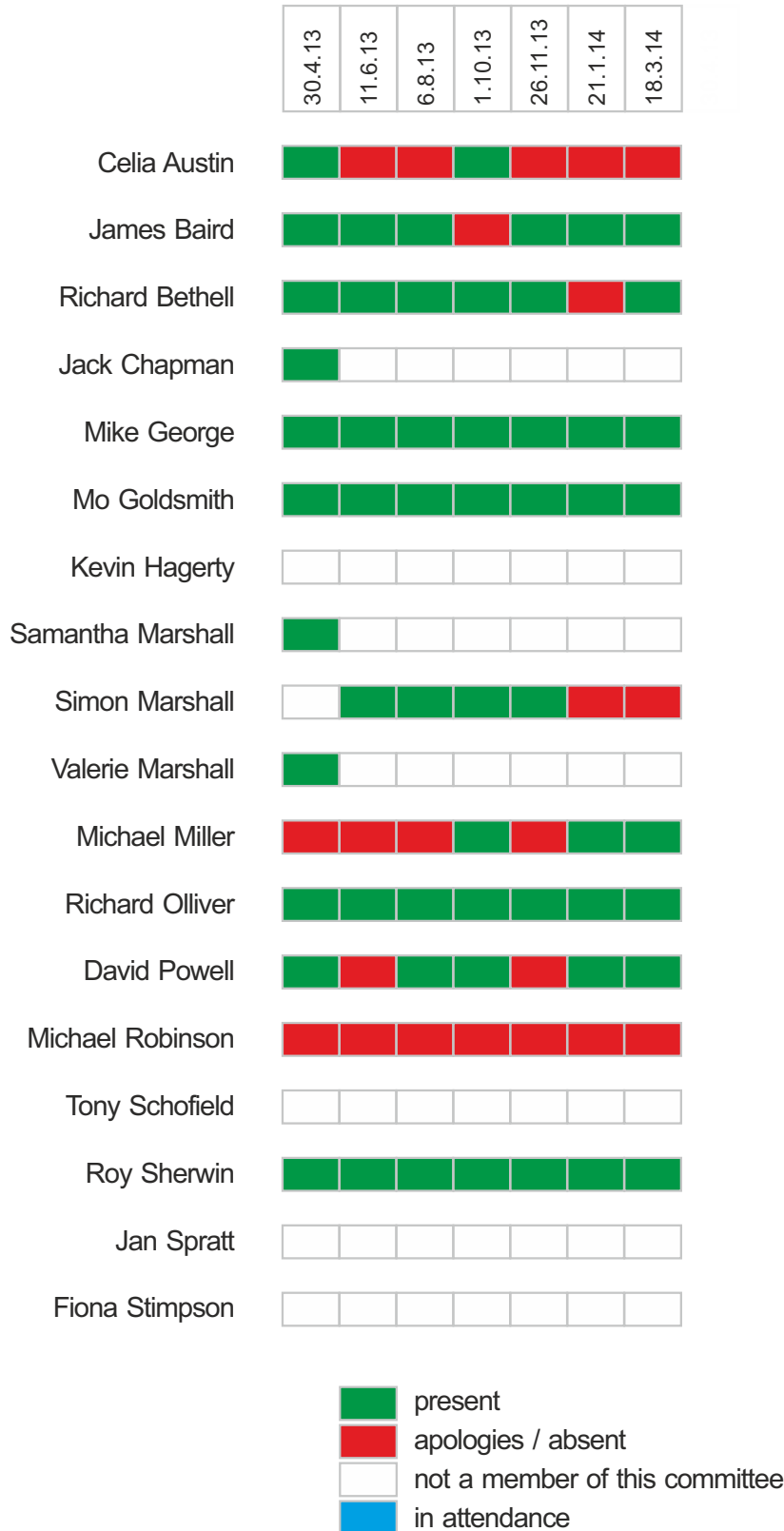
FULL COUNCIL ATTENDANCE STATISTICS

2013/14



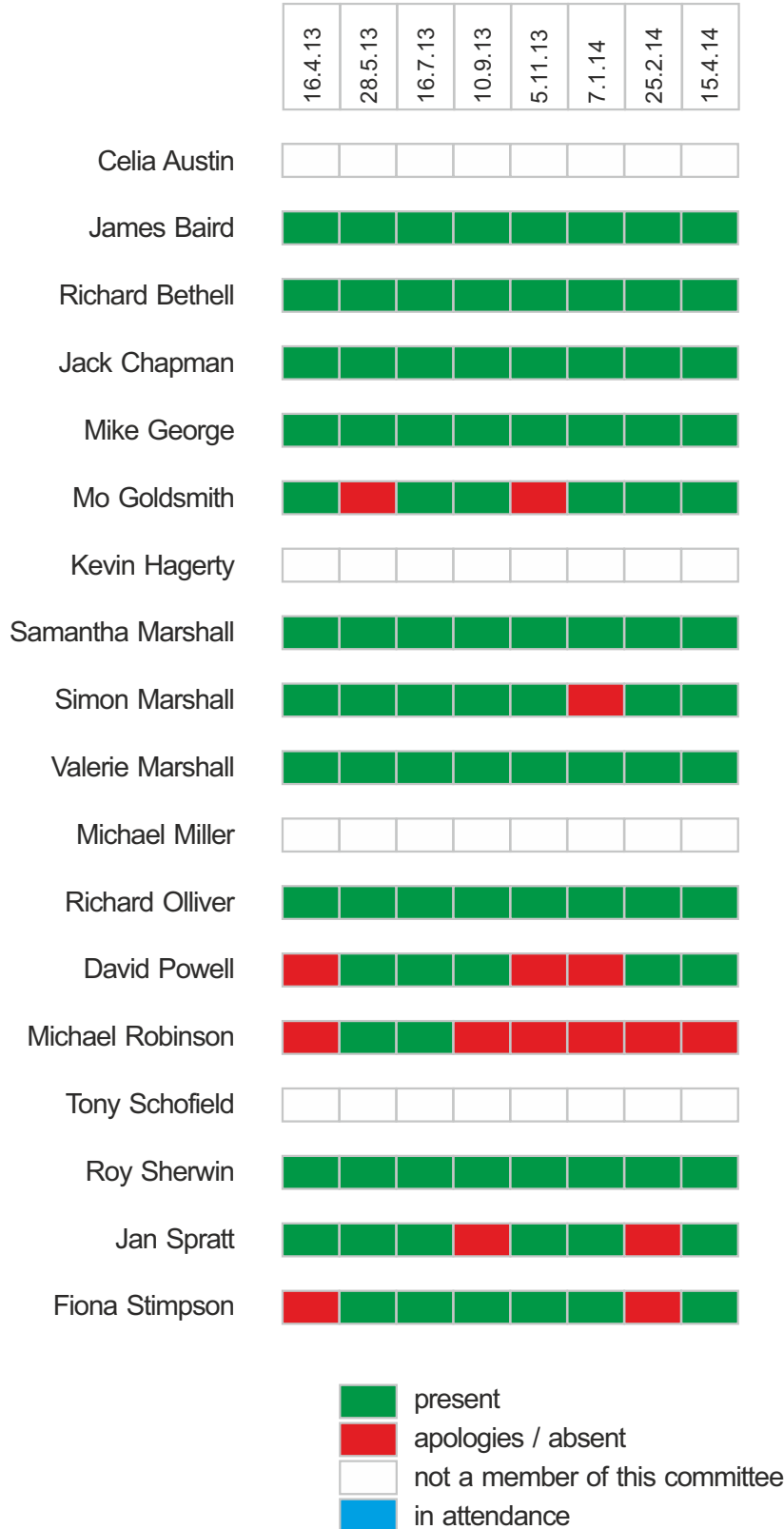
FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE STATISTICS

2013/14



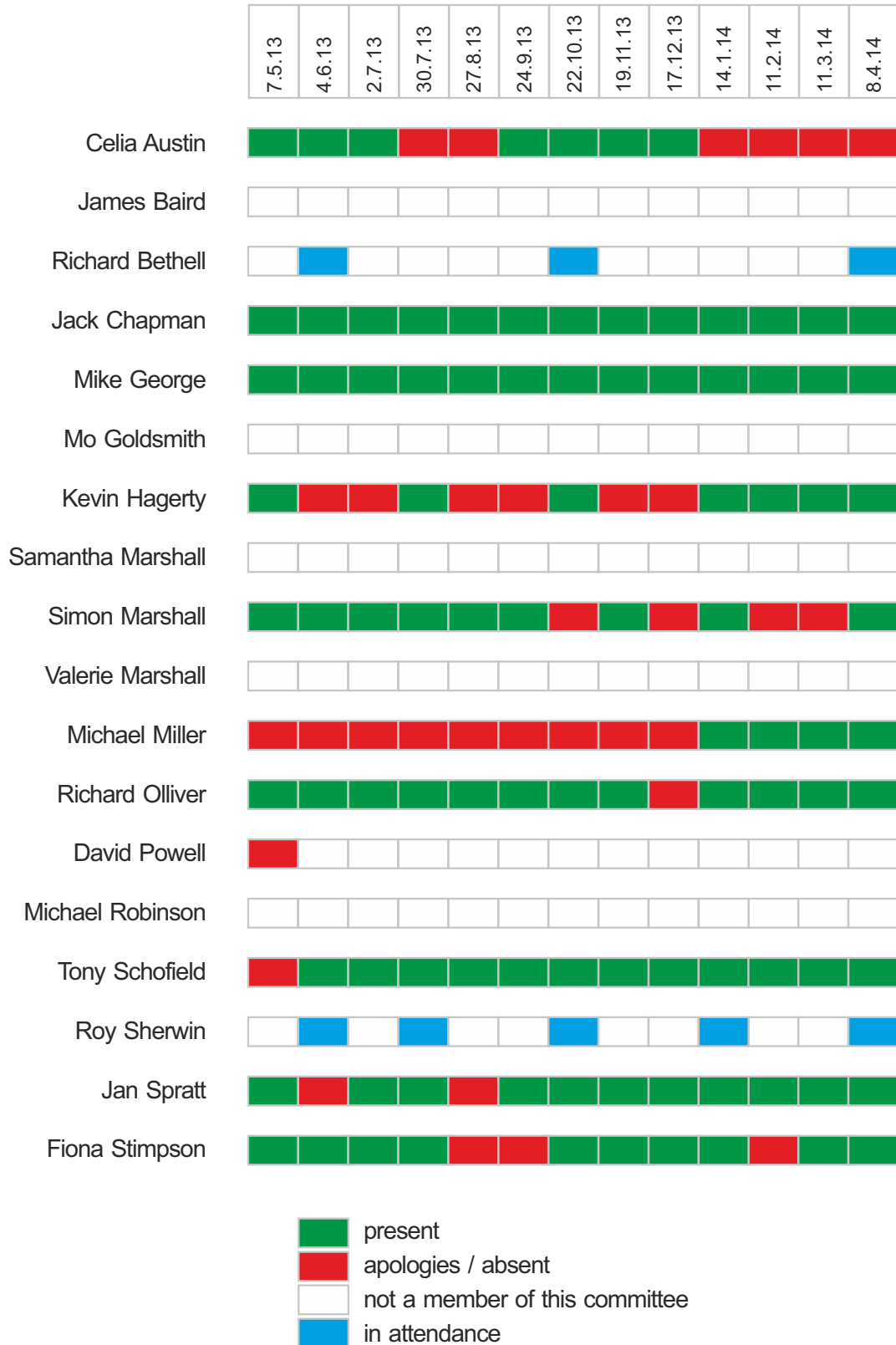
LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE STATISTICS

2013/14



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE STATISTICS

2013/14



1 April 2012 - 31 March 2013

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

(Last) Year Ended 31 March 2012		(Current) Year Ended 31 March 2013
	Income	
287,361.00	Precept	295,830.00
2,036.19	Bank Interest	4,053.22
2,241.52	Administration	411.91
114.69	Salaries and Pensions	0.00
339.57	General	287.94
0.00	Maintenance and Repair	128.95
42,211.75	Lettings and Rents	42,803.40
999.99	Court Lodge/Innes Pavilion	1,445.07
55.15	Horley Recreation Ground	5.15
24,651.00	Devolved Powers from RBBC	20,066.25
1,610.00	Town Centre	218.75
4,500.00	Grants and Donations	7,150.00
3.45	Wayleaves	3.45
£366,124.31		£372,404.09
	Expenditure	
17,245.98	Administration	12,625.09
14,744.29	CCTV/Security	6,736.40
48,034.23	General	41,186.37
7,866.30	Rates and Utilities	4,958.94
14,561.48	Maintenance and Repair	13,705.82
980.45	Lettings and Rents	1,564.28
6,261.50	Court Lodge/Innes Pavilion	3,681.72
21,749.30	Horley Recreation Ground	6,906.27
4,865.39	Michael Crescent	922.73
225.00	Emlyn Meadows	800.00
76,416.85	Grounds Maintenance	78,410.00
1,008.74	Allotments	556.20
10,591.95	Town Centre	8,588.17
121,026.79	Salaries and Pensions	127,200.49
1,500.00	Grant Awards Scheme	0.00
18,290.00	Grants and Donations	11,795.00
£365,368.25		£319,637.48
	General Fund	
42,647.72	Balance at 1 April 2012	55,220.65
366,124.31	ADD Total Income	372,404.09
408,771.95		427,624.74
365,368.25	DEDUCT Total Expenditure	319,637.48
43,403.70		107,987.26
-11,816.95	Transfer to/from Earmarked Reserves	-50,921.36
£55,220.65	Balance at 31 March 2013	£158,908.62

31 March 2013

UNAUDITED BALANCE SHEET

<i>Year Ended 31 March 2012</i>		<i>Year Ended 31 March 2013</i>
	LONG TERM ASSETS	
0.00	Investments	0.00
	CURRENT ASSETS	
2,340.00	Debtors	2,875.00
0.00	Payments in advance	0.00
7,948.91	VAT Recoverable	9,856.91
138,656.13	Bank and Cash	188,884.05
148,945.04	TOTAL ASSETS	201,615.96
	CURRENT LIABILITIES	
14,706.53	Creditors	14,610.84
<u>£134,238.51</u>	NET ASSETS	<u>£187,005.12</u>
	Represented by:	
55,220.65	General fund balance	158,908.62
	Reserves:	
20,778.44	Cyril Edmonds Fund	20,852.55
58,239.42	Earmarked	7,243.95
<u>£134,238.51</u>		<u>£187,005.12</u>

SUPPORTING STATEMENT TO THE ACCOUNTS

Year Ending 31 March 2013

1. Fixed Assets

1.1 Community Assets:

As at 31 March 2013 the following community assets were held at the following book value:

Albert Rooms	690,000
Allotments	40,000
Emlyn Meadows	30,000
Horley A23 Recreation Park	175,000
Innes Pavilion	379,018
Michael Crescent Centenary Park	15,000
Michael Crescent Scout Hut	101,125
	<hr/>
	1,430,143

1.2 Other Fixed Assets:

As at 31 March 2013 the following assets including business equipment, appliances and street furniture (as specified in the Inventory of Assets) were held at the locations below at the following book value:

Albert Rooms	8,915
Allotments	100
Churchyard	240
Council Office	30,099
Court Lodge Playing Fields	38,896
Emlyn Meadows	555
Horley A23 Recreation Park	163,233
Michael Crescent Centenary Park	23,719
Town Centre	9,600
	<hr/>
	275,357
Total fixed assets	<hr/> <hr/> £1,705,500

2. Borrowings

At the close of business on 31 March 2013 a loan of £278,248 was outstanding from the Public Works Loan Board.

3. Leases

Horley Bowls Club: forty-five year lease of land at Horley Recreation Park until 2043 for an annual rent of £1, and an annual licence of £250 increasing by £25 every five years, with the next increase due in 2018.

SUPPORTING STATEMENT TO THE ACCOUNTS

Year Ending 31 March 2013

4. Debts Outstanding

At 31 March 2013 the debts, as shown on the Schedule of Debtors and Creditors, were owed to the Town Council.

5. Reserves

Reserve Funds as at 31 March 2013:

General Fund	158,908.62
Edmonds Fund	20,852.55

6. Earmarked Reserves

Earmarked Funds as at 31 March 2013:

Election Contingency	7,243.95
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7. Tenancies

Court Lodge Fields. Landlord: Reigate & Banstead Borough Council	£1
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8. Grants and Donations

A discretionary donation of £250 was made to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal using the Power of Well Being.

Using the General Power of Competence a grant of £170 was made to the Horley Chamber of Commerce.

9. Council Delegated Powers

During the financial year, the Town Council carried out grounds maintenance work, under an agency agreement, on behalf of Reigate and Banstead Borough Council for the sum of £20,066.25.

10. Contingent Liabilities

There were no contingent liabilities as at 31 March 2013.



To contact Horley Town Council

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