

Minutes of the 414th meeting of Trafalgar Neighbourhood Council  
Held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 7.30pm via video conference

- Present Mr Boffey – Chair, Mrs Thomas, HDC Councillor Costin (departed 20:10), Mr Peterson and Ms Rivera-Aldridge.
- WSCC Councillor Dennis (departed 20:10), HDC Councillor Burgess (arrived 20:15)
- One member of the public
- 1/414/20 **Apologies for absence** –apologies were received from Mr Davis.
- Mr Boffey explained that in accordance with advice received from the Surrey and Sussex Association of Local Councils (SSALC), HDC had temporarily appointed Christine Costin, HDC Councillor for the Trafalgar Ward, as a Neighbourhood Councillor in order to provide Horsham Trafalgar Neighbourhood Council (HTNC) with a quorum – such appointment to last until sufficient new Councillors were co-opted rendering this no longer necessary.
- 2/414/20 **Minutes of the last meeting** - Minutes of the last meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020 having been previously circulated were approved by Mr Boffey and Mrs Thomas.
- 3/414/20 **Matters arising**
- Traffic survey**  
It is unlikely to be possible to survey residents on their preferred action to deal with speeding in the area until Coronavirus restrictions have eased further. Councillor Dennis has spoken with the WSCC Highways Area Manager, Mike Thomas, who believes that a 20mph zone is unlikely to be granted in the Rushams Road/Trafalgar Road area, but a one-way system is more likely to succeed. These will be considered further once restrictions are eased.
- Memorial bench for Frank Gibson**  
This is now in place on the Dog & Bacon green
- Stopping up order – 86 Hill Mead**  
The purpose of this application was to “regularise” an area of hardstanding that had been put in place by the owner of the property to increase off-road parking. There was no need to raise any objection and Cllr Dennis confirmed the order was approved at the March County Local Committee meeting.

### **Youth Provision**

No further update meetings yet planned but we have received a written update from 4theYouth (4TY) who took on the contract after Horsham Matters ceased to offer these services. Since Coronavirus restrictions came into force, 4TY have been running virtual youth clubs comprising a variety of activities as well as virtual support via email, phone and whatsapp etc. They have supported young people with school work, mental health or even tech support for learning from home, often on a 1-1 basis. 4TY have also obtained 10 reconditioned Chromebook laptops for loan to young people and families in need of assistance with home learning.

### **Website/Facebook improvements**

Work continues on increasing the amount of content on the HTNC website, and Mr Boffey has also launched a new Facebook page for HTNC in order to increase visibility and the regularity of communication.

### **Clerk**

Julie McMillan stood down as Clerk to HTNC in March after 20 years in the role. We therefore now have a vacancy for a Clerk. This was to be discussed later in the meeting but due to lack of time will be addressed at the August meeting.

### **Schools admission procedure**

No further consultations likely on schools admissions changes until the new Bohunt Academy becomes fully operational in the 2021/22 academic year, at which point WSCC may seek views on removing the East/West catchment divide between Tanbridge House and Forest/Millais.

4/414/20

### **To consider applications for membership of the Council**

Applications had been received from three Trafalgar residents (Benjamin Peterson, Morag Warrack and Isabel Rivera-Aldridge) to fill the vacancies on HTNC. Each had been proposed by two other residents, and all applicants and proposers had been verified by HDC as being registered electors of the Neighbourhood. After consideration of their application statements (provided in advance) the Council moved to a vote, and all three applicants were unanimously elected and welcomed to the Council by the chair, their terms to continue until May 2023 in line with the rest of the Council. At this point Cllr Costin stood down from her role as a temporary Neighbourhood Councillor.

5/414/20

### **Questions from the public**

There were no specific questions, but one member of the public had attended the meeting to familiarise herself with the role and activities of the Council, which Mr Boffey briefly outlined.

6/414/20

### **Correspondence**

Mr Boffey reported that HTNC had been consulted by HDC in relation to “Infrastructure and Settlement Sustainability” as part of compiling the evidence base for their Local Plan. There has also been a second consultation from HDC regarding the “Infrastructure Needs of Horsham Town” and the “Horsham Town Portion of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).” Finally, we have also been consulted on the evolving Public Realm Strategy for Horsham Town Centre. All responses have either been made or are in progress.

7/414/20

### **Planning**

Mr Boffey noted that HTNC needs to look at adding members to the Planning Sub-committee, as due to retirements Mr Davis may be the only current member.

Application DC/20/0614, which concerns the demolition of the Smith & Western restaurant and replacement with 23 flats, was discussed at length. The original plan was withdrawn in October 2019 and was resubmitted earlier this year. HTNC was advised of an amendment to the application in July 2020. Mr Peterson and a resident of West Parade present at the meeting both noted that there doesn't seem to be any material change to the application. They also reported that while local residents didn't object in principle to residential development on the site, there is great concern as to the scale and appearance of the proposed development as well as overlooking issues and potential intrusion into the privacy of neighbours.

Cllr Burgess advised that if officers recommend the application for approval, it would still go before Planning Committee North provided that any single district councillor requested it, or 8 people from different households object. HTNC could also object and request for it to come to planning committee. Mr Boffey advised residents to contact HTNC if they wished for us to object to the application, and will suggest to Cllrs Costin and Crosbie that they “call in” the application to Planning Committee North.

8/414/20

### **Treasurers report**

Mr Davis had advised Mr Boffey in advance of the meeting that the annual HDC grant of £5,420 has been received and that HTNC has a balance carried forward of £12,738.89.

9/414/20

**Highways**

No new issues to report

10/414/20

**Street furniture**

No issues to report

11/414/20

**Reports from outside committees**

**Meeting of 3 Neighbourhood Council Chairs and HDC – 19<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

Mr Boffey attended this meeting on behalf of HTNC. The main topic of discussion with significance for Trafalgar was an update from HDC on the progress of Local Plan review. Over 6,300 responses had been received and the comments including those of (HTNC) were in the process of being put online. Further technical work is now required to develop the plan before it's consideration by HDC Full Council and a final round of public consultation.

The current Local Plan goes out of date on 28<sup>th</sup> Nov, at which point the annual housing requirement for the District jumps from 850 to 965 overnight. A request has been made by HDC Leader Ray Dawe to the Department for Communities and Local Government to extend the deadline for preparing a new plan in light of the Coronavirus Crisis, but this has been refused.

Cllr Burgess added that having a Local Plan was essential in proving that HDC has a 5-year land supply. If this cannot be proved, Horsham District will be open to speculative planning applications with if rejected would be almost certain to be approved on appeal to the Planning Inspectorate.

12/414/20

**AOB**

Cllr Burgess provided some further background on the Public Realm Strategy for Horsham Town Centre. The output of this would be a vision for the future development of the centre of Horsham including how it could be made more accessible to pedestrians, cyclists and those with reduced mobility. The next challenge would be funding these changes which might come from a combination of developer contributions, central government funding and other sources. Whilst this would be challenging, other councils have done this successfully. The vision will not be realised all at once and it will most likely be an iterative process taking a number of years.

COVID-19 has badly affected the finances of HDC due to increased costs and lost revenue. Although £1.4m has been from HM Govt, in reality this only represents 6 weeks' worth of losses and it is hoped more will be forthcoming.

In response to the current crisis, HDC and WSCC are working together on a programme of increased road closures in Town (e.g. East Street, Park Place, Market Square) to hopefully make these areas more attractive to walkers and cyclists and stimulate more business for the retail and hospitality sectors. If successful the changes could potentially be permanent.

HDC is developing a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) on which it will begin consulting in August. Initially this will be with Parish and Neighbourhood Councils followed by a wider public consultation yet to be determined. The LCWIP will consider an area spanning 5km from centre of Horsham Town and look at trying to make transport routes and links more user-friendly for cyclists and walkers but balancing this against the needs of motorists. Following consultation it is intended Cllr Burgess will present the plan to Council in October 2020.

Central Government funding has been received for a pop-up cycle lane running along Albion Way from the Sainsbury's Roundabout to the Bishopric junction. This was part of the first tranche of government funding for pop-up cycle lanes, and HDC and WSCC intend to pursue further schemes as part of the second tranche in the near future.

13/414/20

**Date and time of next meeting**

To be determined

The meeting closed at 8.50pm