

Horsham Trafalgar Neighbourhood Council  
Chairman's Report - 11 May 2022

2021/22 has been yet another civic year complicated by the Coronavirus pandemic, but we have adapted and embraced new practices to support everyone's safety and HTNC has had a productive year.

Changes

We were sorry to say goodbye in January to our tenacious and meticulous outgoing treasurer, Isabel Rivera-Aldridge. Isabel showed huge perseverance in streamlining and modernising our banking to implement the latest rules around our compliance. We wish her success in her degree and her job as well as time for family life.

We would also like to thank longstanding Councillor Maralyn Thomas for her many years of service, especially to the Neighbourhood Wardens Steering Group, and we wish her success with her future plans.

We retain Councillors Olive Hobbs and thank her for her work with the Youth Team and Ben Peterson who has been instrumental in securing much improved plans for the flats to be built on the old Smith and Western site.

These changes have left us with no-one currently liaising with our Neighbourhood Wardens and no Treasurer - a far from ideal position.

However, we are delighted to welcome new member Paula Dinnage who was co-opted at our April meeting.

Our venue has been changed to Trafalgar Road Baptist Church, and we are very grateful for the free use of this cosy community space for our meetings which are now held on Wednesday evenings.

Achievements

- Residents were invited to make nominations for the **Leonard Crosbie Community Awards** and these were presented in January, flagging up the quiet strength of our community. Jane O'Sullivan was awarded the Individual Award to recognise her three decades of very varied voluntary service, while Mr Crosbie's widow, Mary, chose the Keep Rookwood Green Alliance for the Group Award as this was something very close to her husband's heart. We hear from the new HDC cabinet that **Rookwood Golf Course** is thankfully safe from building for the next few years. Trafalgar TVs and Shingadia's Londis were also awarded certificates as community-centred local businesses, and Wendy Jackson was given a posthumous award for services to the NHS.
- To support **Safer Roads**, HTNC is supporting the **20s Plenty** speed limit scheme, and offering **Velo Square Basic Bike Maintenance** course free to residents to encourage more short journeys by bicycle. We work with WSCC who are responsible for the roads, and there is now a traffic island to make the **Riverside Walk** crossing to Warnham Nature Reserve safer.
- We warmly welcome **Neighbourhood Wardens** Maria Colenso and Charlie Nell and supported the purchase of their **electric bikes** which are really making a difference to their ability to cover the three NC areas more easily.

- We are involved in the **Queen's Green Canopy** trees project and are grateful to HDC for agreeing to support five new crab apple trees in the Trafalgar Road Recreation Ground (The Rec), two of which will be donated by residents.
- The council voted to support the proposed **Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill** (presented by MP Lucas) and remain keen to support nature conservation alongside **local businesses**.
- We agreed to support the **Scouts** for the **Annual Riverside Walk** with £180, in line with the two other Neighbourhood Councils.
- We are pleased to have issued a full autumn **newsletter** and at the time of writing are looking forward to the imminent delivery of the spring edition.
- We are also looking forward to various **Platinum Jubilee Celebrations**, particularly the Trafalgar community event to be hosted by Holy Trinity Church, Rushams Road, and welcome the HDC grant of £200 for this.

### Ongoing Tasks

- We are still waiting for the go-ahead for the **Horsham Blueprint Neighbourhood Plan**. However, the two public referendums needed to approve it are now on hold indefinitely because of a chronic water shortage in our area. This is unique in the UK and Natural England have put a stop to any new development until a way of solving this is found.
- As well as the **Twenty's Plenty** scheme, the Neighbourhood Council is currently considering the latest **Local Cycling and Walking Consultation** and in particular, how to improve the experience of our children cycling to Forest and Millais schools. We are liaising with the HD Cycling Forum on this.
- We continue to link with many other groups such as the **Horsham District Older People's Forum** (HDOPF), the **Horsham Town Community Partnership** (HTCP), the **Horsham Association of Local Councils** (HALC) and the **Gatwick Aviation** group.

My sincere thanks go to all who contribute to keep our Trafalgar community thriving, supported by the many small green spaces that make such a subtle impact on all of our wellbeing.

I have learned so much since last July when I took over as chair. A key part of the Council's work this year has been co-operating with our colleagues on Denne and Forest Neighbourhood Councils and I am grateful for the huge support and patience from them, our vice-chair Martin Boffey and clerk Rhoda and all the other volunteers, councillors and officers who guide me alongside our County and District Councillors - Dr Nigel Dennis and Christine Costin.

I hope we can continue to forge links across all political parties and call on the expertise of residents, specialist knowledge groups and individuals to inform our decision-making for the greater good.

Morag Warrack May 11th 2022