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23 April 2024

To: All Members of the Council

Dear Member

Council – Wednesday, 24 April 2024

Further to the agenda for the above meeting, please find attached the following question(s) on notice submitted by members of the Council, as well as questions from the public, in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules:

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| 5. | Questions from the Public | 3 - 4 |
| | To receive questions from the public under Rules 4a.2(f) and 4j1.1 – 4j1.12 | |
| 11. | Members' Questions on Notice | 5 - 6 |
| | To receive the attached questions from Members under Rules 4a.8(b) – 4a.13 | |

Jane Eaton
Chief Executive

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COUNCIL

24 April 2024

Questions from the Public

Question 1

We understand that housing targets have to be met and that the Horsham District Local Plan has included housing proposals that do not necessarily mirror those of the neighbourhood plans. Of particular note are the proposed developments ST01 and ST02 in Storrington and the application for a further 247 houses on the site of the mushroom farm in Thakeham.

Horsham District Council will be aware that Storrington acts as a “hub” village to the neighbouring Parishes and is in the unique, but unenviable, position of having 6 million cars travelling through the village on an annual basis. Of these 6 million cars an estimated 600,000* of these exceed the speed limit (*from community speedwatch data).

The provision of more housing will contribute to even more traffic which places a further burden on a village that is already collapsing under the weight of traffic volumes.

We assume that Horsham District Council considered not just the provision of additional housing to meet housing targets, but the consequences of that additional housing in terms of the burden on the infrastructure of our village when the proposals were submitted.

So can Horsham District Council please advise what additional infrastructure services they will be providing directly and also advise what discussions/proposals are in place with West Sussex County Council to ensure that highways bring our lamentable road conditions, signage and inappropriate speed limits to a standard that supports the consequence of additional housing.

These proposals may include:

- Road calming measures.

- Pedestrian safety.

- Vehicle Activated Signs.

- Policing of illegal parking.

- Cleanliness, safety and management of footways that are suffering as a result of huge traffic volumes.

Question 2

The residents of Storrington village wants to restore the look and feel and 'sense' of the village, which has become diluted due to a number of issues. Storrington village residents suffer the consequence of over half a million vehicles using the High Street each month. This is recognised to be largely due to the juxtaposition of the location of our village, the geography, the local industry and the road infrastructure, that sees the village as a convenient cut through. Incidentally, data shows that half a million 50,000 (10%) of those vehicles are speeding (source Speedwatch). We have issues with illegal parking which is dangerous.

We need help with funding VAS signs, action to tackle illegal parking, and a general ongoing clean and spruce up to give Storrington more of a village 'feel'. What can HDC do to help our community, which is at breaking point?

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COUNCIL

24 April 2024

Questions from Members

Question 3: from Councillor Claudia Fisher

It's wonderful to have the Chanctonbury Leisure Centre in Storrington host this HDC Full Council meeting in celebration of 50 years of Horsham District Council, which was created by the amalgamation of Horsham Urban Council with Chanctonbury and Horsham Rural Councils. As one of three members for Storrington and Washington, we are delighted to welcome members from other areas and Council staff to Storrington.

Thank you for the thought and for all those who must have worked hard to make this happen.

This question isn't meant as a criticism, but to counter any possible impression that the focus of HDC is disproportionately on Horsham Town, will this Council consider holding at least two Full Council meetings each year in the South of the District?

This would give residents in the South of the District better opportunity to attend council meetings and to ask questions should they wish to. For residents without private transport, attending Horsham in the evening may be challenging. For example, the last bus from Horsham to Storrington leaves before the start of the Council meeting at 6pm. It would be possible to travel by train, but the return train fare from Pulborough to Horsham plus the return bus fare from Storrington to Pulborough Station would be just over £20 per person and likely to deter those with a lower income and the buses to and from Storrington are somewhat infrequent. Thank you.

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