

**Horsham Town Policy Development Advisory Group**  
**6 FEBRUARY 2020**

Present: Councillors: Peter Burgess (Chairman), Andrew Baldwin,  
Karen Burgess, Christine Costin, Frances Haigh, John Milne,  
Christian Mitchell, Stuart Ritchie and David Skipp

Apologies: Councillors: Liz Kitchen  
Absent: Councillors: Roy Cornell

Also Present: Councillor Tony Bevis  
Councillor Paul Clarke  
Councillor Ruth Fletcher  
BDP Consultants  
Ben Starns, Prevention Inspector  
Greg Charman, Health & Wellbeing / Community Safety Manager

10 **NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The notes of the meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were received.

11 **17.35PM CRIME IN HORSHAM TOWN**

Cllr Kitchen was appointed as the Vice Chairman of the Horsham Town Policy Development Advisory Group.

The Health & Wellbeing / Community Safety Manager and the Prevention Inspector for Horsham gave a presentation regarding Community Safety. They outlined the legislation which had set out the community safety responsibilities of local government. This included the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the Police and Justice Act 2006. Various organisations had a statutory duty to work together to reduce crime and fear of crime in their area. This statutory partnership was known as the Safe and Well Partnership. As well as statutory partners, most partnerships worked with non-statutory partners too. Each partnership area had to produce an annual crime and disorder plan. These partnerships had a duty of engagement. They received a grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner and had to decide how it was spent. Performance was monitored. The partnership used to look at focussed topics but it now had a geographical focus, mapping where problems existed.

The Prevention Inspector explained that the town centre had been identified as an area with youth disorder as had Roffey. Operation Galley was a diversion scheme to try to help address the issue. The police were going into schools and discussing with young people and their headteachers what the issues were which were causing the young people to get involved in anti-social behaviour. The Prevention Officer had also met with Sainsburys Supermarket to discuss disorder in the Forum. There would also be joint visits planned for the police

and the Fire and Rescue. He felt the different police teams needed to work together more closely and that this was an area he would focus on.

The Prevention Officer encouraged the reporting of crime / anti-social behaviour in order to build up a better picture of what was happening. Online reporting was particularly encouraged.

There was a discussion around county lines which whilst a problem involving vulnerable youths, were not thought to be as big a problem as in many other areas.

The Health & Wellbeing / Community Safety Manager noted that the Community Safety team at Horsham Council was a reasonable size compared to other authorities. The Council had an Antisocial Behaviour Team co-located at the police station. They liaised with people suffering anti-social behaviour. The Council also had a warden service. There were two wardens for the Town Centre Area. There were 14 wardens district-wide. The Public Space Protection Order which the Council had obtained had given it more powers to reduce anti-social behaviour such as free running. CCTV cameras in the town centre were maintained by the District Council. The Council also facilitated Pubwatch / Shopwatch.

The Council were looking to invest money for fencing in Swan Walk Carpark to prevent suicides.

## 12 **18.15PM PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY**

There was a presentation from Building Design Partnership (BDP) Consultants regarding the evolving Horsham Town Strategy. The following issues were discussed:

- Potential enhancements to the Carfax.
- How to protect the town's heritage. BDP felt design needed to compliment the architecture.
- Materials used and how to have a cohesive palette. BDP felt too many would appear disjointed.
- Planting. BDP and the Group felt there needed to be more.
- Legibility and quality of wayfaring signs. BDP and the group felt there should not be too much or the area would appear cluttered.
- Cycling / sustainable transport. BDP felt pedestrians and cyclists would benefit from the provision of more pedestrianised 'shared space'. Cycling needed to be encouraged.
- Use of space. BDP felt that the town centre space could be future proofed by creating some flexible spaces to allow activities and events.
- Lighting. It was agreed better lighting was needed.
- BDP suggested having a "green link" through the town centre north / south.
- It was suggested that buses should be prioritised in the town centre.
- BDP felt the Causeway could be used as a better gateway to the town.

- BDP felt the Albion Way subway crossing could be removed and an “at grade” crossing provided to improve connectivity between the park and the town.
- BDP felt Bishophric needed to be made more visually appealing with improved connectivity to John Lewis and Waitrose.
- BDP felt that the Causeway should be a significantly improved public realm, which better reflected the historic character of this part of the town centre.

It was agreed that the following matters would be discussed at the next meeting of the group:

- Queen Street
- Activities for young people

*The meeting closed at 7.00 pm having commenced at 5.30 pm*

CHAIRMAN