



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF ELECTORS
OF THE PARISH OF NORTH HORSHAM
HELD ON MONDAY 24TH APRIL 2019 AT 7.30pm
AT ROFFEY MILLENIUM HALL, CRAWLEY ROAD, HORSHAM**

The Annual Parish Meeting started at 7.00pm with refreshments and an opportunity to talk to members of the Parish Council. The main meeting started at 7.30pm.

Present at the Meeting were three members of the public, thirteen Parish Councillors, guest speakers Inspector Sarah Leadbeater from Sussex Police and Sonia Mangan CEO of Age UK Horsham District, two West Sussex County Councillors and three members of staff.

MINUTES

In the chair: Cllr A Britten – Chairman of North Horsham Parish Council.

The running order of the meeting was changed to allow speakers to leave to attend other events.

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone in attendance, especially the guest speakers and accepted apologies from Cllr Frances Haigh, Cllr Martin Loates, Cllr Simon Torn and Cllr Ian Wassell. District Councillors had not been specifically invited as they were in purdah. District Councillor Roy Cornell asked that his apologies be recorded.
2. Inspector Sarah Leadbeater of the Sussex Police Neighbourhood Policing Team for Adur, Worthing and Horsham invited those assembled to verbalise any concerns that they may have, or to ask questions about Policing issues. A member of the public asked what the priorities in local Policing were. Inspector Leadbeater explained that vehicle crime was an ongoing issue and Operation Blackout was still active. Vehicle owners are reminded to lock their cars and remove valuable items as mainly items are being stolen from cars that have not been secured. The perpetrators of the crime are usually taking goods to fund a drug habit. Sussex Police is working with a range of partner organisations to support those who have a drug dependency.

Several Dispersal Orders have been issued in Horsham Town Centre to address anti-social behaviour. Dispersal Orders allow the Police to remove individuals from an area and if they return they will be arrested. Local Action Teams (LAT) have been set up to work with young people, some of whom are in feuding groups resulting in violent behaviour and some who are bored. The LAT is working to find a solid solution base to the issues and to get to the root of the problem. The typical age range of those involved in higher level anti-social behaviour is between 17 – 21 years and those as young as 12 – 13 years can become engaged in lower

level crime.

There is continuing work on “cuckooing” when a person’s home is taken over to store and sell drugs and “County Lines” when criminals from major cities expand their drug networks to other areas of the country. Whilst there has been improvements in the situation in the last twelve months there is ongoing work with partners to safeguard vulnerable young people.

Scams have always been a problem and scammers are continuously changing their methods of operation all the time. Banks work hard to protect people from scams and will often contact the Police if they have any suspicions.

A member of the audience suggested that it could be a good idea to get those young people who are causing issues in Horsham to help those who have been the victim of scams. There is a dedicated Police Officer whose role is to look at how young people who offend or who may offend in the future can be diverted into helping others.

Social Media platforms are also an area of concern to the Police as there are opportunities to have access to young people with few barriers.

Concern was raised regarding drug dealing and the smoking of drugs near Oak Tree Way playground and the Redkiln Way Industrial Estate.

Concern was raised at the lack of ball courts in the area as it was suggested that this may give the young people somewhere to go and a purpose.

The difficulties of getting through to the Police on the 101 telephone number was acknowledged. There is a dedicated officer working to try to improve the 101 service.

There used to be Neighbourhood Meetings that gave local people an opportunity to have a dialogue with the Police, these worked well and it was hoped that they could be reinstated. Inspector Leadbeater explained that lack of resources has changed how the Police work and that resources are directed to where there is the highest risk of harm.

Inspector Leadbeater stressed the importance of Community Intelligence and the need to give information, however small, to the Police as it could be an important piece of a larger jigsaw. LATs are not able to work alone and it needs strong partnerships working together to help prevent and solve crime.

Inspector Leadbeater spoke of her pride in the small team that she leads and the hard work, commitment and dedication that they demonstrate. She encouraged the Parish Council to contact her with any concerns.

A member of the public raised the positive work done by the Community Safety Partnership in Horsham which has representatives from the probation services, Fire and Rescue, Police and local mental health teams and works locally to prevent crime and support communities.

The Chairman thanked Ms Leadbeater for her contribution to the meeting, especially as he was aware that it was taking her away from front line duties, however, he felt that everyone was much better informed and aware of the need

to report incidents however small and the key issues affecting North Horsham.

3. West Sussex County Councillor Peter Catchpole for Holbrook Ward spoke to update those assembled about the planning application for the Incinerator at Wealden Brickworks which was turned down by WSCC and which has gone to appeal. The appeal will be heard in October 2019 in Horsham . There is a campaign by local residents to try to stop the Incinerator being built. Another significant planning application in Holbrook is on the former Novartis site on Wimblehurst Road and there are concerns regarding access to the site and how the site will be managed, especially the effects on the surrounding road network. The funding to WSCC from Government has reduced and whilst some cuts have been made, ultimately there will be increases to Council Taxes. In 2019/20 there is a 2.9% increase on full time services and 2% increase on social care.

West Sussex County Councillor Andrew Baldwin for Roffey shared Cllr Catchpole's concerns about the Novartis site. He has a meeting with Legal and General Capital regarding the development north of Horsham in regard to a proposed cycling strategy.

A resident spoke out to say that something needs to be built on the Novartis site but is there really a solution to the traffic issue? Is it something that has to be managed and accepted? There was a suggestion from the floor that perhaps a one way system could be considered as a future solution. It was acknowledged that Planning Applications are looked at individually without consideration of the cumulative effects.

4. Sonia Mangan, CEO of Age UK Horsham District gave an informative presentation about the work being done by Age UK Horsham District. Whilst Age UK has a national presence and there are national campaigns that support the local organisations, Age UK Horsham District is an Independent Charity and all of the money raised in Horsham for Age UK Horsham District, stays in Horsham. Age UK Horsham District receives 34% of its income from Horsham District Council and West Sussex County Council, but the rest of the money comes from fund raising. Age UK aims to support people who are lonely and who may be suffering from both loneliness and depression. A heat map of loneliness has been produced and Roffey is a high risk area, because of this, Roffey is specifically targeted by Age UK Horsham District. North Horsham Parish Council awarded £1,000 to Age UK Horsham in 2018 which enabled an event called "Full of Life" held at Roffey Millennium Hall. The event introduced elderly people to ways in which they could get involved with a variety of activities and ways of being supported to assist them as they age. The State can't support people as it did in the past and therefore, people have to help themselves and try to keep fit, healthy, active and try to

develop a support network. Following the “Full of Life” event, activity in North Horsham increased and more people are now accessing the visiting service which is where a volunteer visits someone to give support. Before the “Full of Life” event there were 23 people using the service, afterwards there were 54 people.

Age UK try to create solutions for people and one of the key aims is to get people to talk as by talking trained staff can tease out from people who they speak to, issues that may all be a factor in the reason that the initial call was made. Age UK in effect, now does what social services used to do to help people.

Age UK Horsham District produce a leaflet which guides people about ways in which they can find out about services they need. These include Local Day Care Clubs, information and advice, Help at Home, Home Visiting and Home from Hospital/ Relative Support. It was advised that the Older People’s Forum has a very helpful directory of services which should be kept ready for when there is a need, in a similar way to the leaflet produced by Age UK Horsham District. Ms Mangan responded to a question regarding why more leaflets aren’t available in the hospitals as that is very often when families need guidance and support, by explaining that in Horsham District only 30% of care is arranged by social care, 70% is self funding and therefore access to help and support is minimal. That is why it is so important to focus on what can be done to manage the aging process where possible, stay connected and think about where and how you live to keep as healthy as possible for as long as possible.

The Chairman thanked Ms Mangan for her engaging presentation and for giving a clear overview of the services that UK Horsham District offer and giving guidance on how everyone can help themselves by managing the aging process where they can.

5. The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Electors of the Parish held on 23rd April 2018 were signed by the Chairman as being a true record of the meeting.
6. The Chairman presented the Annual Report of the Parish Council for 2018/19 which was available in hard copy and which would be available on the Parish Council website www.northhorsham-pc.gov.uk.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35pm..

..... Signed

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