



**NORTH HORSHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NORTH HORSHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
**HELD AT ROFFEY MILLENNIUM HALL, CRAWLEY ROAD, HORSHAM**  
**ON THURSDAY 5<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2026 COMMENCING AT 7.30pm**

**Present:** Councillors: Mrs. K. Burgess\*, J. Dancer, J. Davidson (Chairman), Mrs. G. Davidson-Fernandez, Mrs. J. Gough, R. Knight, D. Mahon, S. Raby, T. Rickett B.E.M., D. Searle, N. Simmonds, J. Smithurst, S. Torn, R. Turner\* and Mrs. S. Wilton (Vice-Chairman) \* denotes absence

**In attendance:** Sarah Norman (Clerk)  
HDC Cllr. B. Walters

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**FC/111/26 Public Forum**

There was one member of the public present, but they did not wish to address the Council.

**FC/112/26 Apologies for absence**

The Council received apologies for absence from Cllr. Turner

Members also received apologies from County Cllr. Baldwin together with District Cllr. Emery.

**FC/113/26 Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interests.

**FC/114/26 Minutes**

The Minutes of the Council Meeting of the Council held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026 were **AGREED** and were signed by the Chairman as being a correct record.

**FC/115/26 Decisions made by delegated power since 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026 for ratification**

There had been no delegated decisions since the last meeting.

**FC/116/26 Committees and Working Parties.**

The following Committee Minutes were presented to the Council:-

116.1 Finance & Administration Committee Meeting held 19<sup>th</sup> February 2026

116.2 Planning, Environment and Transport Committee Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026

116.3 Property Committee Meeting held 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026

116.4 Personnel Committee Meeting held 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2026

In addition, Members received the Notes of the meetings of the following Working Groups, :-

116.5 Asset Transfer Working Group Meeting held 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026 including **RECOMMENDATION** that, alongside the Expression of Interest already submitted for the car park, a request is submitted to HDC for the transfer of Beech Road Recreation Ground to ensure this open space and play area is preserved for the use of the community and protected from any future development.

116.6 Mowbray Community Building Working Group Meeting held 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026 including **RECOMMENDATION** that L&G be requested to install water & drainage on the wall in the library behind the toilets (as highlighted in blue and green on the plan Appended to these Notes), that a minimum of 2 sinks be installed and consider if it is feasible to install an additional sink in the Police Office

It was **RESOLVED** that the Committee Minutes and Working Group Notes as listed above be received, and all recommendations **RATIFIED**.

#### **FC/117/26 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies**

Cllr. Searle reported on the following, a written copy of which was circulated at the meeting :-

##### **BIFFA Brookhurstwood MBT**

Alterations to the MBT to accept food waste is now complete, tested and commissioned ready to accept food waste throughout the district. The delivery of food waste caddies and bins are currently taking place and will be ready for the first collection starting in March. The reception hall for food waste has two mashers that will split the bags and mash the food before continuing in the process. The second masher is in case of a break down. HDC representative advised of the program to litter pick the A24 and A264 from the Pollards roundabout South of Southwater to Faygate. This work has now been completed but users of the roads will have noticed that the litter has quickly returned. Please report any vehicle you witness discharging litter to HDC. Details can be found on their website.

##### **Weinberger Brickworks**

Nothing to report

##### **Wealdon Works Recycling, Recovery And Renewable Energy**

HDC is still monitoring air quality through the sensor on Langhurstwood Road at the Wienerberger site and results over the last three years are well below the thresholds of the air quality objectives. The results can be seen on the HDC website - <https://www.horsham.gov.uk/environmental-health/air-quality/air-quality-reports-and-assessments> . The site of the mobile air quality station being funded by Qair will not be decided until Qair provides the funding. Qair will not be party to deciding where it will be located. It was pointed out that the new station was for the monitoring of the operational plant, which was at least three years away. The application for the S73 planning variation had not yet been submitted, but it was close to being finalised. Until the planning situation was cleared, no further progress on other aspects of the project could be made. Coast Communications (CC) have been employed by Qair to ensure that any work on the project that affect residents will be communicated to local people and not through the grapevine. CC has been in business for about 20 years, has advised on EfW developments across the country and has experience of the construction phase and the transition into operations.

##### **Local Police**

Cllrs. Gough, Knight, Searle and Wilton, together with the Clerk met with Inspector Neil Durkin and Sophie Norman, the local PCSO, on 25th February. Insp. Durkin explained he was responsible for the local policing teams in Horsham. Each area has a dedicated PCSO's who will deal with local issues and where necessary escalate serious issues further up the line of command. It was stressed that local intelligence was critical for them to prevent crime and we were asked to report any issues or suspicions.

On Monday 23rd February a facial recognition unit was in town operating in West Street and Insp. Durkin was responsible for inputting a request into Gold Command for specific offenders. This could be Sex Offenders in Horsham Town area to ensure they are not breaking their order, known shoplifters and many more. On Monday they had no hits which is good and underlines that Horsham is a safe place. The unit is shared between Sussex and Surrey and will not be seen again for some time.

It was queried why the two tents in Albion Way opposite the YMCA were not being removed and that if they were left, it may encourage other to set up camp and this does not give a very good first impressions for first timers visiting Horsham. The tents were now unoccupied and they will investigate why they have not been removed.

The issue of electric scooters and large fast electric bikes was raised. Scooters were less of a problem as they were mainly used responsibly but riders are warned if they are seen using them in a dangerous manner. Many of the large electric bikes have been altered to increase their speed and they will be stopped and checked as they are classed as road vehicle and need to be ridden by an appropriate license holder with suitable insurance.

All those present thought the meeting was a success but there was disappointment that no members of the public attended.

Cllr. Wilton also reported that she had attended the recent meeting of HALC and much of the discussion had revolved around Devolution. It was noted that a copy of the Minutes of the meeting will be circulated to all Members when available.

#### **FC/118/26 Reports from District or County Councillors**

Cllr. Emery, who had given his apologies to the meeting, had provided a written report on the latest developments at Gatwick Airport as he was the HDC representative to GATCOM. The report was circulated to Members at the meeting and is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 1. Cllr. Emery also offered to address a future meeting of the Parish Council about the airports developments.

Cllr. Walters reported on behalf of HDC and referred to the recent Members' Bulletin (a copy of which would be passed to the Clerk for circulation) and included the following topics :-

- Around the District meetings - the NHPC Members that had attended this felt it had been a useful forum and welcomed a follow up meeting to receive feedback on points raised
- Staffing restructuring at HDC following the sad passing last year of Helen Peacock, Head of Sustainability & Green Spaces
- New page on website "Do I need Planning Permission?"
- Update on Capitol refurbishment
- Community Support Marketplace Event
- LGA Guide : Operation Ford and policing crime against elected Members - whilst not specifically aimed at Town & Parish Councillors this included some useful and practical advice for all those in public office

In addition, Cllr. Walters reported that the Governance Committee would be looking at updates to the Constitution and the also the forthcoming establishment of the Town Council in Horsham.

Cllr Raby then reported on behalf of WSCC with the main area of concern for residents being potholes. It was acknowledged that the previous contractor had left something of a catch-up situation, which combined with the recent terrible weather had left a backlog. The new contractor is now doing more, with 45,000 being the latest figure. The most important thing was encouraging all to report issues so that they can be logged, prioritised and included in the programme of works. Cllr. Raby also suggested that the local Assistant Highways Officer be invited to a future meeting for Councillors and the public to discuss and raise any Highways matters.

**FC/119/26 Report from the North Horsham Community Land Trust (NHCLT) link councillor**

Cllr. Gough, as Chairman of the NHCLT, gave the following report.

*Finding very much needed affordable homes for our local residents and their families is very necessary but not a quick fix. We are very grateful for all the Parish Council's long terms support.*

*Working within the Community*

*We continue to attend Horsham District Business networking meetings which gives us the best opportunity to discuss with local business groups, the ongoing, desperate housing needs within our area. We are members of Horsham Lions and Donald Mahon is our membership representatives (We have already booked a pitch in Horsham Park on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2026 at their major summer event.*

*Keeping up to date with rapidly changing housing situation, both locally and nationally*

*Donald Mahon continues to keep us well up to date with both national and local housing information. With the assistance of Graham Maunders (Community Led Housing Advisor for Action in Rural Sussex) we maintain contact with Saxon Weald Housing Association and with other local community land trusts; sharing successes and problems. WE have also registered with a NALC webinar for putting Town and Parish Councils at the centre of affordable housing. We continue to attend Horsham District Business networking meetings.*

*Updating*

*There will be new guidance from the Information Commissioners Office on GDPR rules and data protection in the summer. We will need to review and update our financial policy document in the Autumn to take this into account. We are very grateful to Graham Fiveash for keeping us up to date with this and working to upgrade our business plan.*

*Our website*

*This needs urgent updating and the process has now recently been set in motion, with professional help and oversight from Rory Grubb and Graham Fiveash.*

*Finally, a huge vote of thanks needs to go to Peter Beckley (our very hardworking Secretary on whom we heavily rely on). He always keeps us extremely well informed and updated.*

## FC/120/26 Chairman's Announcements

The following were **NOTED**:

- 120.1 Members may recall that at the Council Meeting held 8<sup>th</sup> January, it was agreed that this Committee should consider a resident request for a grit bin to be installed (Min. FC/109/26 refers). However, the resident has now advised that following discussions with neighbours, some of whom would not be supportive of an installation, he did not wish for the matter to proceed further.
- 120.2 Both 4TheYouth (funding recipient) and WSCC Waste Prevention representatives have agreed to attend the Annual Meeting of Electors on 27<sup>th</sup> April.
- 120.3 An Expression of Interest regarding a possible transfer of the Godwin Way Car Park was submitted to HDC on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026.
- 120.4 Following the attendance of the Neighbourhood Warden team at the last meeting, a report and update has been provided which was circulated by email with the Agenda.
- 120.5 The up-to-date S106 and CIL report was circulated to all Members via email on 19<sup>th</sup> January. With regard to the query relating to the library contributions a response was received from WSCC to advise the following : *The s106 contributions you have listed below have quite specific wording contained in the s106 agreement, setting out how the funds must be spent. As such they can only be spent on a library facility at North Horsham (any changes to government structure would not effect this) and would remain available for library aspect of the new community facility when this comes forward.*
- 120.6 As per the HDC News Release published on 12<sup>th</sup> February, and circulated to all Members on the weekly correspondence email dated 18<sup>th</sup> February, following Horsham District Council's request to re-open the examination of its 2023-2040 Local Plan, the Government's newly appointed Planning Inspector, Jonathan Bore has now confirmed that he will approach the examination afresh and a revised workplan and timing schedule have been announced.

## FC/121/26 Financial Matters

### 121.1 Finance Report to show income, expenditure and reserves for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026

Precept (full year)	401,537
Environmental Grant	12,752
Donation for Interpretation Board	927
CIL Funding	90
<b>Total</b>	<b>415,306</b>

### Income to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026

Cost Centre	Actual income	Annual Budget	Estimated income to 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2026*
Admin	20,296	20,000	16,667
Allotments**	1,111	1000	1,000
North Heath Hall	66,931	73,000	60,833
Holbrook Tythe Barn	34,253	46,000	38,333
Multi Court Lettings	21,645	28,000	23,333
Roffey Millennium Hall	63,373	78,000	65,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>207,609</b>	<b>246,000</b>	<b>205,166</b>

## Expenditure to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026

Cost Centre	Actual Expenditure	Annual Budget	Estimated expenditure to 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2026*
Admin	43,865	59,810	49,842
Grants	5,494	10,000	8,333
Burial***	5,596	7,900	6,583
Personnel	306,960	390,150	325,125
Allotments	1,312	1,940	1,617
Amenity, Recs and Open Spaces	48,272	68,100	56,750
North Heath Hall	24,114	35,980	29,983
Holbrook Tythe Barn	17,676	25,880	21,567
Roffey Millennium Hall	39,503	51,270	42,725
<b>Total</b>	<b>492,792</b>	<b>651,030</b>	<b>542,525</b>

\* Total cost centre budget for 2025/26 divided by 10/12th.

\*\* Allotment invoices are sent out annually. The full income is expected by the end of May.

\*\*\* Paid quarterly in Months 2,5,8 & 11

The Council **NOTED** the detailed Income and Expenditure showing the income and expenditure for the year to date (including a summary of the variances from the budget) as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026.

### Income

Overall, the anticipated income was on target. The income from the halls was approx. 0.7% below the anticipated level at the end of month 10, an improvement on the 2% below budget at the end of month 9.

### Expenditure

There had been a further increase in the underspend which is 9.2% at the end of the month, compared to approx. 8.2% lower than anticipated at the end of month 9.

### Reserves

As at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026 remaining funds, including the full year precept payment received, together with General Reserves, stood at £370,927.

In addition, there continued to be Earmarked Reserves of £221,491 a reduction of £2,399 from the end of month 9, due to spending from the R&R EMR of £1,560 for height barrier repairs and £13 for replacement curtain hooks, £620 from the Tree works EMR for an inspection and £206 from the CIL 2022/23 EMR for the bike racks at RMH.

### Summary

Both income and expenditure were broadly in line with the anticipated levels at the end of month 10 and are in line with both income and expenditure at this point last year.

### 121.2 Payment and Transfer Lists

The Council **AGREED** the Payment and Transfer lists for December 2025 (£58,468.99) and January 2026 (£45,621.93) as circulated with the Clerk's report and as published on the website.

## FC/122/26 Annual Review of the Council's Internal Control Procedures and Practices

Members **NOTED** the Statement of the Parish Council's Internal Controls as circulated with the Agenda and following discussion, **RESOLVED** with all in favour that this be adopted, that the financial management was adequate and effective, and that the Council had a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of the Council's functions.

## FC/123/26 Data Protection Review

Members **NOTED** that from the 2025/26 AGAR, Parish Councils would be required to complete a new Assertion 10 as part of its Annual Governance Statement. This new requirement went beyond the previous expectations bundled together under Assertion 3.

The 2025 Practitioners' Guide, issued by the Smaller Authorities Proper Practices Panel (SAPPP) (formerly JPAG), sets out the requirements of Assertion 10.

Assertion 10 not only requires councils to use a council-owned email domain and to operate an accessible website in line with legal requirements (which NHPC already does), it also explicitly requires parish and town councils to:

- Comply with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018
- Process personal data lawfully, fairly, and in line with UK GDPR principles
- Recognise their roles as both a Data Controller and a Data Processor

As agreed at the meeting held 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025 (Min. FC/64/25 refers), Breakthrough Communications had been engaged to support this process through their Data Protection Toolkit and as a result, the following had been undertaken :-

- i) Training for all staff on the following Data Protection Basics:
  - \* Top 10 Data Protection Terms
  - \* Data Controllers and Data Processors
  - \* Data Protection Principles - an Overview
  - \* Introduction to Lawful bases for Processing
- ii) Mapping of all data using the ICO template
- iii) Review of the following policies
  - \* CCTV Policy
  - \* Data Breach Notification Policy
  - \* Privacy Notice
  - \* IT Policy (replacing the Communications Policy)
  - \* Handling of DBS Certificate Information Policy
  - \* Document Retention Policy
  - \* Subject Access Request Policy
  - \* FOI Publication Scheme

Members subsequently **RESOLVED** with all in favour that the work undertaken demonstrated the importance placed by the Council on Data Protection compliance and expectations and that the Council would be able to complete Assertion 10 of the 2025/26 AGAR. Members also **NOTED** that this was not a one-off exercise but rather part of an ongoing process to ensure compliance with Data Protection requirements. Therefore, upon adoption of the policies as noted above, a Compliance Report would be requested from Breakthrough Communications with the results reported to a future meeting of the Council.

## FC/124/26 Community Engagement

Members discussed the methods of Community Engagement attempted previously including the Community Showcase and the surgeries held at Roffey Millennium Hall. It was agreed that being out in the community had a higher chance of positive interaction than inviting the public to come into one of the buildings.

It was therefore **AGREED** that the Clerk liaise with the Co-op with the proposal that the Councillors man a stand outside the store in June - one on a Saturday and one on a weekday.

The Clerk also suggested, and Members **AGREED** that a Roffey Litter Pick, similar to the established event in Holbrook, be carried out over the summer, possibly in association with a local church.

**FC/125/26 Policies**

The following recommended Policies were **APPROVED** :

- 125.1 Flag Flying Policy
- 125.2 Bus Shelter Policy - as recommended by the Property Committee meeting held 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026 (Min. PR/056/26 refers)
- 125.3 Tree Work Policy - as recommended by the Property Committee meeting held 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026 (Min. PR/056/26 refers)

**FC/126/26 Correspondence**

The Council **NOTED** correspondence list 1 as circulated with the Agenda and list 2 issued immediately prior to the meeting, covering the period 8<sup>th</sup> January to 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

**FC/127/26 Date of next Meeting**

The date of the next scheduled Meeting was **NOTED** as 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026 and that this would be the Annual Meeting of the Council.

Cllr. Ricketts sent his apologies in advance for this May meeting.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.07pm.

Signed .....

Date .....

## 1. Introduction

Since my last update to members there have been some important developments. This update provides all members with details of the last 2 GATCOM and NatMAG, GATCOM away day as well as the Transport Forum meeting in November 2025.

I would encourage all members to share this information with your communities and parish councils. I will be circulating these notes to the Parish Clerks of all the parishes within the District and will be offering to speak at future parish council meetings.

In addition to my representing HDC on GATCOM steering Committee, GATCOM and NatMAG I will shortly be attending FLOPSC (Flight Operations Safety Committee) meetings to improve my understanding of flight safety at Gatwick Airport.

## 2. Northern Runway.



The Secretary of State for Transport approved the building of the new runway and associated changes to the airport and off airport infrastructure in 21 September 2025. [https://nsip-documents.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/published-documents/TR020005-004237-GATWICK\\_AIRPORT\\_NORTHERN\\_RUNWAY\\_DCO - Decision Letter - 21 September 2025.pdf](https://nsip-documents.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/published-documents/TR020005-004237-GATWICK_AIRPORT_NORTHERN_RUNWAY_DCO_-_Decision_Letter_-_21_September_2025.pdf).

Key conditions set by the Secretary of State include:

- **Stringent Noise Mitigation:** The approval requires adhering to strict limits on aircraft noise, specifically implementing a revised Noise Insulation Scheme for local residents and addressing noise-sensitive, non-residential buildings.
- **Public Transport Targets:** A mandatory requirement was set for 54% of passengers to use public transport to travel to the airport before the expanded runway becomes operational.
- **Environmental and Infrastructure Upgrades:** Requirements include on-site waste water treatment improvements to manage the environmental impact of increased operations, which would be delivered in the event that Thames Water, the statutory authority, were not able to bring the existing infrastructure reinforcements online in time to serve the development.
- **Operational Constraints:** The approval allows for a phased increase in flights, with specific, stricter noise limitations imposed compared to the original proposals.

A legal challenge to the SoS decision was heard in the High Court on 20-23 January 2025 and the decision of the Judge is expected in early March. It is possible that an appeal maybe made against the Judge's decision and this would take between 6 and 12 months to be decided upon. If an appeal was made and it rules that the Runway can go ahead the final decision should be made by the end of 2026.

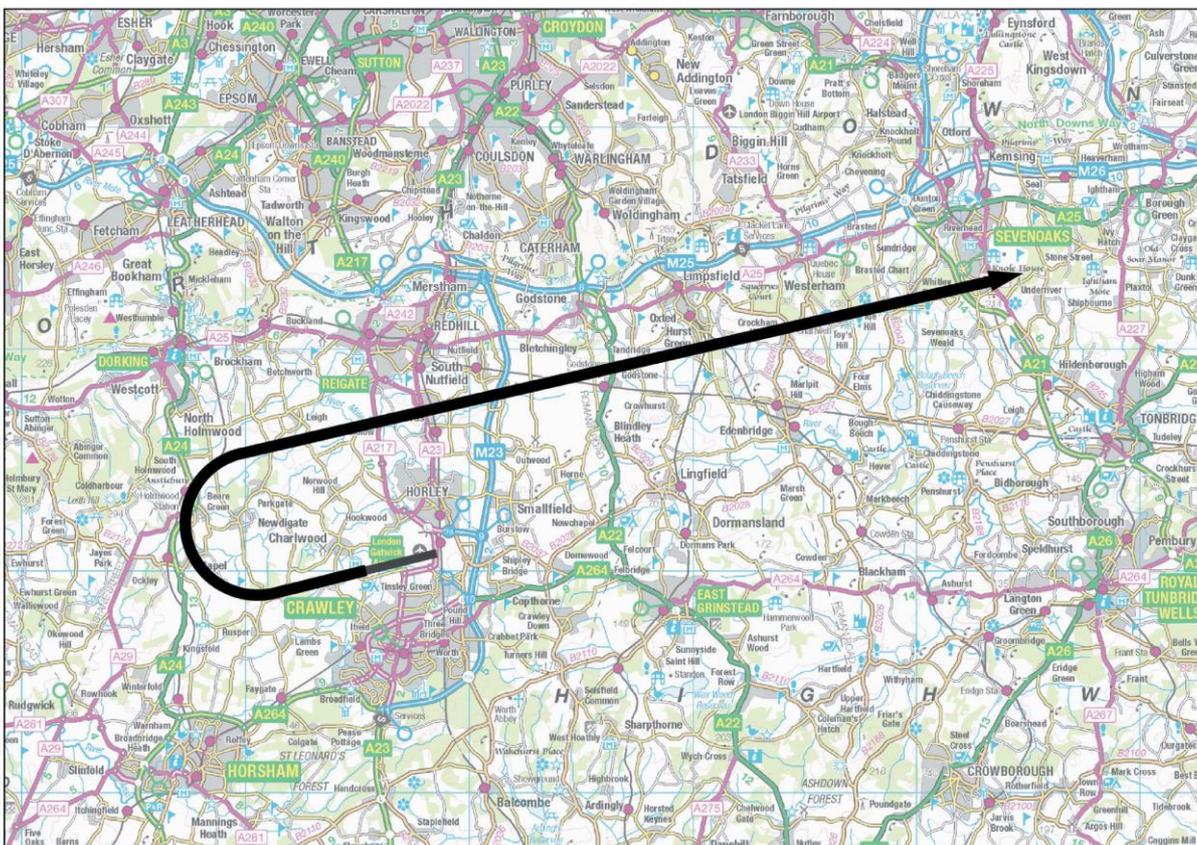
HDC was approach to make a legal challenge against the SoS decision, and in consultation with other Councils and their KC advice decided there were no grounds for a legal challenge.

### 3. Airspace review

The Department for Transport DoT has overall responsibility for the review of UK airspace and it has introduced a new body that will be responsible for a review of all airspace in the United Kingdom. The UK Airspace Design Authority will stand up in Q2/Q3 2026. All of the work conducted by Gatwick under FASI ( South) has now been handed over to the UK Authority and minimal changes will be made to flight paths to and from Gatwick. Gatwick will be responding to all consultations issues by the Authority as and when they are published.

There is currently a consultation on Heathrow Runway 3 which is due to conclude by the end of 2026 and if approved would be operational from 2035. The introduction of a new runway may have an impact on airspace South of London (which includes Gatwick flight paths). The Airspace review will be completed by 2029, but a deployment date is currently unknown. So, the earliest any changes could be made to flight paths in and out of Gatwick is 2029 and it could be as late as 2035. Because of these changes there will be no consultations on airspace in 2026, except for route 4 ( see below)

### 4. Route 4 Airspace Modernisation



Route 4 is one of nine Standard Instrument Departure (SID) routes for aircraft taking off from the Main Runway at London Gatwick. It applies to aircraft taking off to the west from the Main Runway but ultimately heading east on their journey. Soon after take-off, aircraft flying Route 4 turn 180 degrees northwards and head east, flying in the vicinity of South Holmwood, Leigh, Redhill and Reigate before flying on towards their final destination.

The map above shows that on leaving Gatwick planes fly over the most northerly part of Horsham District in the Rusper and Warnham Parishes. Since the changes mostly impact towns and villages in Surrey there are no public consultation meetings in the Horsham District Authority area. However, there are a series of webinars that anyone can sign up for a webinar via Citizen Space.

Tuesday 10 February 2026 6pm-7pm

Monday 23 February 2026 11am-12pm

Wednesday 4 March 2026 7pm-8pm  
 Thursday 12 March 2026 6pm-7pm  
 Wednesday 18 March 2026 2pm-3pm  
 Thursday 26 March 2026 5:30pm-6:30pm

All residents and businesses that maybe affected by these proposals are encouraged to contact the following:  
 website Citizen Space site: [route4acp.co.uk](http://route4acp.co.uk)  
 Email: [LGWairspace.Rte4@gatwickairport.com](mailto:LGWairspace.Rte4@gatwickairport.com)  
 Freephone: 0808 303 4560  
 Freepost: Freepost ROUTE 4 CONSULTATION

## 5. NaTMAG.

The most recent NaTMAG meeting was held on 25 November 2025.

The KPIs are set out below:

KPIs	Q1 2025	Q1 2025 vs Q1 2024	Q2 2025	Q2 2025 vs Q2 2024	Q3 2025	Q3 2025 vs Q3 2024
Total Aircraft Movements	54,212	1.29%	71,042	-0.16%	77,540	-1.45%
Percentage of Chapter 14 Aircraft	64.46%	2.18%	66.66%	0.24%	67.72%	1.70%
Percentage of Chapter 4 Aircraft & Above	99.97%	0.11%	99.93%	0.03%	99.80%	-0.11%
Percentage of Chapter 3 & Below Aircraft	0.00%	-0.03%	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%	0.01%
Continuous Descent Operations (CDO) performance	91.31%	2.07%	90.26%	0.67%	90.20%	1.18%
Track Keeping Conformance	94.51%	3.23%	93.88%	3.70%	89.59%	1.20%
Total Noise Infringements	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Noise Complaints Received	1,374	-39.10%	2,993	-31.77%	3,085	-18.49%
Individual Complainants	72	-11.11%	162	5.19%	203	18.02%
Enquiry Response Performance Target is 95% Within 8 Days	99.80%	0.30%	99.10%	0.48%	99.20%	3.77%

Figure 1: Q1-Q3 2025 KPI Table (New Version)

1. The total number of flights in q3 2025 is down 1.45% compared to the same period in 2025.
2. The percentage of Chapter 14 aircraft (those with a lower noise profile) has risen to 67.72% in q3 2025 which illustrates that the overall level of aircraft related noise is likely to be lower in q3 2025 compared to a year ago.
3. There are very few (0.01%) of very noisy aircraft now operating into or out of Gatwick. For instance, there has only been 1 Boeing 747 flight.
4. The numbers of complaints has fallen by 18.49% but the number of those individuals that make a complaint has risen from 72 to 203.

Within the HDC district there is a single complainant who has submitted over 1000 complaints in 2025. A detailed review of these has been undertaken and the complaints are about the noise from planes flying to and from both Heathrow and Gatwick. The HDC Environmental Health department has been working with GAL on this issue and are trying to arrange a meeting with this resident to understand their concerns. Due to the exceptionally high volume of complaints made by this person the GAL team have provided full information about relevant overflights and continued to log complaints but no longer responded to each one, as per the Gatwick Complaint Handling Policy. I have been in contact with both the parish council and HDC councillors in the relevant ward.

A presentation was given on Wildlife and Habitat Management at Gatwick. The presentation was very informative and included a video of a bird strike involving 2 mute swans at Gatwick airport during a take-off in 2025. This led to the aircraft having to turn around and a delay of 24 mins to flights whilst the runway was cleared. The passengers were unharmed and boarded a replacement aircraft within 2 hours.

To help prevent future incidents all developments within 15 km of the airport are assessed by the GAL safeguarding officer. During q4 2025 the safeguarding officer wrote to HDC expressing some concerns that the possible development of residential property in West of Ifield should not lead to a rise in the population of birds.

## 6. Transport Forum November 2025

I attended the annual transport forum which is a full days meeting dedicated to surface based transport. This covers access to the airport by:

- Train
- Coach
- Bike
- Private Cars
- Taxi/Uber
- Bus

The GAL strategy is to deliver 60% non-private car access by 2030. They have committed to spend £60m on sustainable travel of which £10m is on buses/ coaches and a further £10m on rail.

Improvements have been made to rail access from Surry through platform changes on the line from Reading to Gatwick, including Dorking station. GAL are in discussion with Network Rail to improve the services during the night from London since many flights take off from 6am and passengers need to arrive at the airport from 4am. Currently there are too few rail services during the night, mainly due to engineering work.

Improvements have been made to the bus services from Horsham, with the introduction of Hydrogen powered busses on route 300. This route operates 24/7 and started from Horsham station and goes through parts of North Horsham as well as Faygate and Kilnwood Vale.

There are currently no coach service now operating from within the Horsham district.

A cycle network exists within Crawley to enable GAL employees and passengers to cycle to and from the airport.

The levy for drop-off at Gatwick terminals has risen to £10 and this is used to fund improvements to non-private car access. It is possible for cars to be parked for free for up to 2 hours in the long term car park and to use the frequent bus service to access the terminals.

## 7 Gatwick Improvements.

Gatwick continue to expand the range of routes and airlines operating from it. Of particular note in the past 6 months are the following;

1. Jet2 will be operating 6 aircraft from GAL from March 2026 to holiday destinations in Europe. This directly generates 300 jobs and all aircraft are Airbus 220 NEO which have a lower CO2 output and lower noise profile than older aircraft.
2. Air France will be introducing twice daily flights to Paris CDG
3. Air Asia will operate daily flight to Bangkok.
4. Gatwick now operates flights to 340 destinations in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas. It now has the largest number of airlines operating in its history.
5. Improvements to check in security have been made and in my experience when using terminal south in December have greatly reduced the time it takes to get through security. Passengers can now leave liquids and electrical items, such as laptops, in their cabin bags and liquids can be taken through security in containers of up to 100ml in volume
6. Improvements have been completed to South Terminal with better quality access and space. The retail offering has been improved with the introduction of Gail's Bakery and local food offerings including the Sussex 6.