

Our District



Horsham
District
Council


News from Horsham District Council
Summer 2022

**How water neutrality
can affect you**
.....

**Check out our progress
on tackling climate change**
.....

**National award
for Horsham Park**

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- **LEARN** about options for extra care and support

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Welcome to the summer edition of Our District



After a challenging couple of years I believe we have turned a corner and now have a lot to look forward to in our District.

We continue to make great progress in tackling climate change locally.

This edition features how our local communities are using the Council's climate funding across a range of projects to improve biodiversity, and our Wilder Horsham District initiative is helping farmers and landowners deliver nature recovery networks.

Our Neighbourhood Wardens have switched to hybrid vehicles, we have a new eco-friendly community hall, and electric charge points are being installed in council-owned car parks.

We also feature some key schemes to help you meet rising energy prices.

This edition also highlights how the issue of water neutrality is creating a pause in new home development, and the actions we are taking to combat this problem.

We are also celebrating Horsham Park winning a national Bees' Needs award for its pollinator planting.

With best wishes,

Councillor Jonathan Chown
Leader



How Piers is helping nature to thrive	2
Got any climate friendly project ideas?	4
Warden vehicle fleet goes green	5
Going electric in Storrington and Billingshurst	5
New eco-friendly community facilities are ready to hire	7
Helping you meet rising energy prices	7
Help with cost of living crisis	8
Water neutrality – what it is and how it affects local housing	8
New Chief Executive	9
Museum & Art Gallery update	11
Community lottery announces first £25k winner	12
Giving our young people a voice	14
Are you a local landlord? Let with us	14
How Margaret is keeping healthy	16
Enjoy great value discounts in our leisure centres	17
Horsham District Befriends	18
Annual Canvass for the Register of Electors	18
How our Community Link services can help you feel safer	19
Seven trails for seven towns	20
Welcome back... we are open for business	20
Getting you into work	21
Horsham Park wins national bee friendly award	22
Coming together for new Bluebell Park	22
Shelley honoured	22
Food waste trial results are in!	23
Disposing of your DIY rubbish?	23
Horsham District councillors	24
Contact us	25

GET IN TOUCH



Send us your feedback on this edition by emailing us at communications@horsham.gov.uk

Cover image: River Arun, Pulborough
© Toby Phillips Photography

@HorshamDC

How Piers is helping nature to thrive

Wilder Horsham District is a five-year partnership between the Council and Sussex Wildlife Trust, working to deliver a Nature Recovery Network for our District.

One of the main focusses of the Wilder Horsham District project is to work with local community groups, farmers and landowners to help them create improved habitats which will increase flora and fauna, with the ultimate aim of helping nature to thrive and combat climate change.

In this edition we pay a visit to new landowner Piers Clark, who took ownership of an area of woodland called Mount Wood near Rusper in late March 2021. He has started an ambitious series of projects to re-cultivate his land to create better habitats for wildlife, trees and grassland.

Here's what Piers has to say:

What is your background, Piers, and how did you become interested in tackling biodiversity problems?

I did an environmental sciences degree in the late 1980s, and then completed a PhD in public health engineering. I have spent over 30 years working in the water sector so have always been quite aware of environmental issues.

How did you become involved with the Wilder Horsham District project?

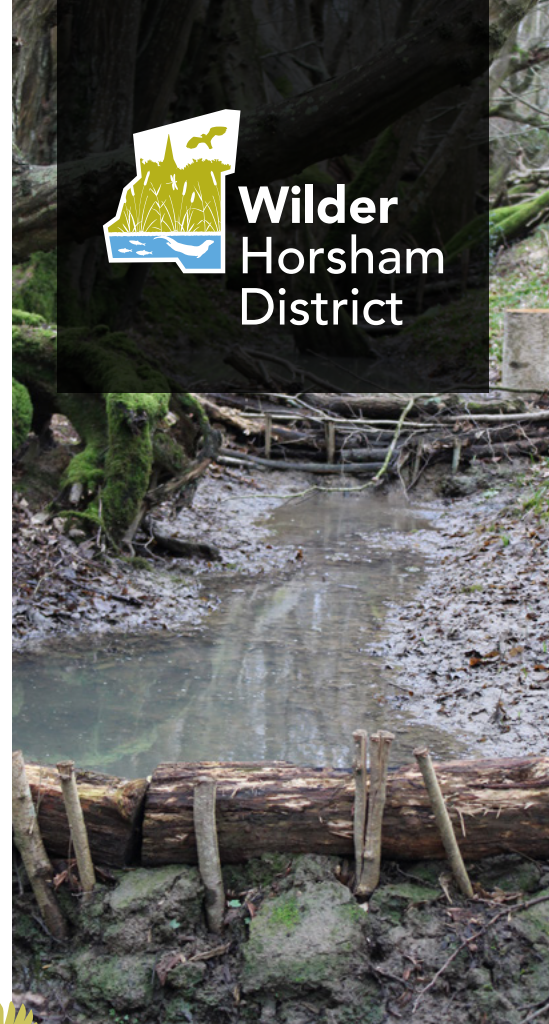
When I bought the Mount Wood woodland area, I reached out to local ecology groups and was approached by the Wilder Horsham District team.

The team have been instrumental in advising me about what I can do to create a broader variety of healthier habitats on my land, which will support many more species of trees and animals. They have also pitched in with teams of volunteers to lend a hand with the heavy work of digging and clearing vegetation.

What is your overall aim at Mount Wood?

Ultimately, we want to maximise, protect and preserve as many ecological habitats as possible – we are not trying to protect single species, but encourage as much diversity as possible, in both flora and fauna. It's all about multi-species and multi-aged trees and habitats. This is why we have scrub, closed canopy trees, hedgerow, standing dead wood, ditches, and we are creating a pond.

The biggest challenge is that the site is pretty small at just 12 acres, but it's a start.



Above:

Leaky dams built creating streams to feed the pond

Left:

Landowner Piers Clarke at Mount Wood



What projects have you got on the go at Mount Wood at the moment and how will they help improve biodiversity?

- **Creating a pond** – ponds are great habitats for many varieties of organisms including plants, amphibians, fish, reptiles, waterfowl, insects and even some mammals.
- **Constructing leaky dams** – leaky dams are a form of natural water management. By putting them across flow paths in the wood we will slow the passage of water through the wood. This will conserve water in the woodland by creating a series of smaller pools and pushing water out into the wider wood.



“ **Trees planted now will make a significant contribution to biodiversity** ”

- **'Haloing' of oak trees** – this entails cutting away other trees around well-established oaks to give them space. Despite their size and seniority in the woodland, oaks are sensitive to crowding and over-shadowing by faster growing species. Removing these competing trees gives the oaks room to spread and have larger lower limbs with more space for wildlife.

- **Management of ash trees which had ash dieback disease** – ash dieback is devastating ash populations, but that doesn't mean all trees should be cut down. There is evidence that some ash are resistant and can recover and cutting down all infected trees would remove these trees as well.

- **Creation of two glades** – glades are essentially more open areas of woodland which will attract more sunlight and allow ground flora to flourish and fallen trees to rot down, providing more habitats for a broader range of species.

What are your timescales?

I want all of it to happen as soon as possible! But in reality, it's a 500 year project.

What will success look like for you?

We did a baseline ecology survey in April 2021, with the idea being that we would do it again every five years and hopefully see progress. As it happens, we have seen so much progress since then that I don't think I need another survey to make me feel this is a success.



“
Nature loves a mess
”

Right:
Wilder Horsham District volunteers building natural hedgerows to help natural habitats

Below:
Volunteers in an open glade that attracts more sunlight, which is good for moths, butterflies and vegetation



How you can help nature

1. **Be bee friendly** – plant pollinator friendly plants that will attract bees and other insects.
2. **Give nature a home** – put up a bird box or a bat box, or build your own hedgehog house.
3. **Just add water** – your own pond, no matter how small, will instantly attract more wildlife.
4. **Don't be too tidy** – leave some of your lawn unmown and a few piles of rubble and wood around which is really good to attract wildlife. Remember nature loves a mess!



Got any climate friendly project ideas?



Our local community is continuing a mission to tackle climate change. Thanks to our Community Climate Fund lots of projects are underway to reduce carbon levels and create an environment that works better for everyone.

We have had an amazing response since the funding launched in July 2020 from lots of voluntary and community groups, as well as Parish and Neighbourhood Councils. They have successfully received funds and are now making them work hard on really effective eco-projects.

Let's take a look at what is going on.

Above:
Beeding and
Bramber Village Hall

Below:
Trafalgar cyclists
ready to get on
their bikes

Beeding and Bramber Village Hall have used their funds to install low energy lighting which has reduced their energy consumption by some 62% a year.

They have also introduced solar panels reducing their emissions by 1,324 kgCO₂ a year.

Horsham Trafalgar Neighbourhood Council used their funds to encourage increased use of bicycles as a means of personal transport. Trafalgar residents are being urged to get on their bikes with the help of a bike maintenance training course.

Chair of the Neighbourhood Council Morag Warrack said:

"I'm so delighted that we can now get more people into cycling and help cyclists feel confident to get out and about on the road. This will encourage locals to cycle into town and commute to work on their bikes as Horsham can be easily cycled from the Trafalgar area. The cleaner air will be of benefit to all of us in the long run."

They will use the awarded funds to improve basic bike maintenance skills for local residents and encourage them to use their bikes more as a climate friendly alternative to cars.

Apply now for up to £5,000 to make them happen

The next rounds of funding are shown below:

- Grant opens 4 July 2022 - Closes 12 August 2022
- Grant opens 3 October 2022 - Closes 11 November 2022
- Grant opens 2 January 2023 - Closes 10 February 2023

A judging panel will meet to consider the applications after each round closes and all applicants will be informed of the outcome approximately four weeks after the closing deadline.

The funds must be used for brand new projects, which will last beyond the funding provided by the Council, and include a commitment to inform the wider community about the project and encourage others to act.

GET IN TOUCH



For more information about the Horsham District Community Climate Fund and application criteria please email **community.development@horsham.gov.uk** or go to our website **www.horsham.gov.uk/communityclimatefund**.



Warden vehicle fleet goes green

Our Neighbourhood Wardens have moved from petrol to hybrid vehicles in line with a drive for cleaner, more energy-efficient cars, building on our commitment to protecting the local environment.

The six new hybrid cars will combine a small combustion engine with an electric motor, the main advantages being that the vehicles consume less fuel and emit less CO₂ than a comparable conventional petrol or diesel-engine vehicle.

Horsham Town Centre Wardens who cover Denne, Forest and Trafalgar neighbourhood areas received new electric bikes to help them cover greater distances quicker on their town centre patrols.

This new investment will support the Council's commitment to the environment and air quality



Above:
Our Neighbourhood Wardens with their new vehicles

Right:
Horsham Town Centre Wardens with their new bikes

improvement work across the District. As well as reducing our emissions, it ensures that we have a fit for purpose fleet with reduced running costs and improved service delivery.

The Council works in partnership with Parish Councils (Ashington, Billingshurst, Southwater, Storrington, Pulborough and Steyning / Bramber / Upper Beeding collectively) and the Horsham Town Neighbourhood Councils to provide Neighbourhood Wardens that give a highly visible and reassuring patrolling presence, aiming to help local people feel safe.

The Neighbourhood Warden schemes and associated costs, to include vehicles and e-bikes, are funded by the respective Parish and Neighbourhood Councils.



FURTHER INFO

For more information on what Neighbourhood Wardens do in our local communities, please visit www.horsham.gov.uk/community/neighbourhood-wardens.



Above:
Storrington rapid charge point

Going electric in Storrington and Billingshurst

Replacement electric vehicle charge points have been installed in Storrington's library car park, and the Six Bells car park in Billingshurst.

These rapid charge points allow electric vehicles to be recharged to 80% in about 40 minutes, depending on the type of vehicle. This is the first stage of a major project that will improve vehicle charging infrastructure across the Horsham District.

The replacement charge points are being installed by Connected Kerb. This is a UK company that is working with most of the councils across West Sussex, to install a new, large scale electric vehicle charge point network over the next decade.

FURTHER INFO

More information on the network and how to use the charge points can be found at www.connectedkerb.com/west-sussex-chargepoint-network or by calling 0800 0291 696.

LIVE BETTER LONGER

Where?

The Steyning Centre

- Tuesdays

The Horsham Wellbeing Hub

- Tuesdays

Pulborough Village Hall

- Thursdays

How much?

50p per session
(2 x 12 week instalments)

Can I just turn up?

Sorry NO - you need to refer yourself via our website, or be referred by your GP/ a health care professional

Are the classes covid safe?

Yes, we follow all Government guidelines

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*horsham district
wellbeing*

AHS Wellbeing is a not-for-profit community interest company enabling communities to enjoy a greater quality of life through inclusive, accessible and sustainable support.



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Visit: www.krestonreeves.com/legal





Above:
Blackbridge Community Centre

Right:
Blackbridge Community Centre's Main Hall with new LED lighting technology



The building has a large hall for community use and events and a smaller hall for meetings and smaller functions. The new refurbishment has incorporated energy efficient technologies, including an air source heat pump heating system, LED lighting technology and solar panels, as well as high grade improved insulation.

Blackbridge Community Centre is available for public and private events. You can hire the Main Hall (suitable for up to 60 people), the Second Floor Hall (suitable for up to 40 people), or both.

The hall is situated at Three Acres, Horsham RH12 1RS.

BOOK NOW



For further details and to book the facilities please visit www.horsham.gov.uk/community/rooms-for-hire/blackbridge-community-centre.

New eco-friendly community facilities are ready to hire

In March the Council opened a new community facility, the Blackbridge Community Centre on the Needles Estate in Horsham.

The new centre has been completely remodelled to create a modern, flexible and energy efficient space for the benefit of the local community.

Helping you meet rising energy prices

Tailor made energy saving advice for your home

The Council, working in conjunction with Portsmouth City Council and AgilityEco, has secured £32 million as part of the Warmer Homes Scheme for energy saving improvements in residents' homes.

With energy prices rising at unprecedented levels it is important to make your homes as energy efficient as possible.

The Warmer Homes Scheme offers grant funding for insulation, solar panels and air source heat pumps.

To be eligible you must:

- Have a household income of £30,000 or less
 - Live in a home that has an energy efficiency rating of D or below.
- You can check it here www.gov.uk/find-energy-certificate

If you rent your home from a private landlord, you could also be eligible, but your landlord will need to contribute to the cost. Funding will depend on how your home is heated.

APPLY TODAY



To apply visit www.warmerhomes.org.uk or call 0800 038 5737.

Energy and money saving service

We are also delighted to be working with the Local Energy Advice Partnership (LEAP) to help people keep warm and reduce their energy bills.

LEAP is a free service with trained advisers offering you tailored advice and support based upon your needs, including onward referral and follow up home visits with free energy saving measures (where appropriate). If you are on a low income, have a health condition made worse by living in a cold home, or are vulnerable in another way, you may be eligible.

APPLY TODAY



To apply and check eligibility visit www.applyforleap.org.uk or call 0800 060 5767.

Extra help with cost of living crisis

As a council we are doing everything within our power to help struggling residents with the current cost of living crisis.

A special package of measures has been introduced by the Council recently, funded primarily by the 2.9% Council Tax revenue increase this year.

Some £300K of support will be available across a number of areas such as housing payments support to help residents on benefits, and a hardship fund to help those in debt.

Funds are being made available to Horsham Matters to help them expand their fuel crisis activities and to Citizen's Advice to recruit extra staff to cope with increased demand.

Supporting new initiatives for young people is also a priority, with extra money for a mentoring scheme in partnership with West Sussex County Council.



Water neutrality – what it is and how it affects local housing

Recently you may have heard of the term 'water neutrality' or watched TV programmes about the need to protect water resources. This has become a hot topic in recent months, particularly for Horsham District.

The Arun Valley nature reserve near Pulborough is of international importance for the rare habitat and species it supports. Studies by Natural England (the Government's adviser for the natural environment in England) have shown that this environment is under threat and that one of the causes is the increasing demand for drinking water, which is taken out of the ground close to the site to supply homes and businesses in the Crawley, Chichester and Horsham areas.

In order to prevent harm to this habitat Natural England have advised that new developments do not increase the demand for water above existing levels. This is referred to as Water Neutrality. This is having a big effect on the type and amount of development which can take place in the District at the moment.

New developments affected

To avoid making the situation worse, local councils including Horsham District Council, are now not allowed to give planning permission to build new homes or expand business where they increase the demand for drinking water. This is preventing most new homes and economic growth from taking place for the time being.

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Other items of interest: old books, postcards, model toys inc. Dinky & Corgi, watch & clock-making equipment, automobilia, military items, cameras, etc. If it's an entire collection or just a couple of bits, please contact me.

ALL tools considered



© Toby Phillips Photography

Above:

Cows grazing in the wetlands of Pulborough Brooks

Whilst some people may initially welcome the lack of new development in the short term, in the medium to long term, it could cause significant future problems for the provision of homes for local people, and business developments, and consequently the vibrancy of our local economy.

It is therefore very important that we find a solution to this problem.

What we are doing in response to this

Horsham District, together with a number of other organisations including other affected local authorities, Natural England and Southern Water, are working to develop a strategy that will provide solutions to water neutrality. This will require new development to be designed to use as little water as possible. In addition, other ways of reducing water use will need to be found – this includes water company work on fixing leaks, and in the longer term finding new water sources.

What this means for our Local Plan

For some time now the Council has been preparing a Local Plan that will set out planning policies and proposals to guide development in the District up to 2038. The Council is required to prepare a Local Plan by law. In order to make sure that the new plan which comes forward does not increase the demand for drinking water, the plan has been paused whilst work on finding the solution to water neutrality takes place.

As Sussex is the first place in the country that has needed to show that development which takes place is water neutral, it is difficult to know exactly how long it will be before a solution is finally in place.

The eventual solution may also have an impact on the amount of development which can take place. If this is the case, our Local Plan will need to identify a lower housing number than the target which is set by national government.

In advance of the Local Plan, planning applications continue to be determined. Whilst some limited developments have been permitted where water neutrality has been conclusively demonstrated, this is a very high bar. This is therefore impacting the amount of development which is able to proceed at the current time.

FURTHER INFO

This is a new and evolving issue for the Council. All updates will be shared online at www.horsham.gov.uk/localplan.



I am delighted to be appointed as the Council's Chief Executive, continuing to work in a district that is my home.

New Chief Executive

We were delighted to appoint Jane Eaton, BA (Hons), MBA, CPFA, as our new Chief Executive.

Jane has been the Council's Director of Corporate Resources since 2016 and has substantial local government and private sector experience.

Jane succeeds Glen Chipp as Chief Executive who retired in April.

Jane said: "I am delighted to be appointed as the Council's Chief Executive, continuing to work in a district that is my home. This is an exciting opportunity and I very much look forward to working with councillors, officers and partners to improve the lives of people in our local communities."

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Our Museum & Art Gallery is now open for longer

Horsham Museum & Art Gallery's opening hours are now Tuesday to Saturday, 10am to 4pm, including all bank holiday weekends in the Spring and Summer.

Children's craft activities are now available on Wednesdays and Saturdays during school holidays, with each activity relating to an event or person from Horsham's history.

The Museum's barn has now reopened, where visitors can discover more about the District's agricultural past, as well as see antique street signs from Horsham, including the recognisable Cramps Opticians' sign, remembered by many long-term residents of Horsham. Located in the garden, the barn itself is a museum object. It was originally located at the now demolished Hills Place, and dismantled in 1977 to later be remade within the garden at the Museum.

New exhibitions

Our exhibition programme continues with an exhibition of a selection of works from the Royal Watercolour Society, opening on Saturday 2 July until 3 September. Working in a variety of styles from the traditional to the avant-garde, the exhibition will give a new perspective on what can be achieved within the medium.

Our Autumn exhibition will open on 24 September and showcase the works of Brighton based artist Dion Salvador Lloyd, whose seascapes and landscapes in oil capture the changing atmosphere of the Sussex scenery.

Visitors to the Museum can continue to enjoy an exhibition on the romantic poet Percy Bysshe Shelley which opened over the Jubilee weekend. Providing both an overview to his life and insight into the wider Shelley family's involvement within the Horsham area. The exhibition will run throughout the summer months, closing on 24 September.



FURTHER INFO



For more information about our Museum & Art Gallery and to sign up to our email newsletter please visit www.horshammuseum.org.

Or keep up with our blog at www.horshammuseum.org/collections/blog.



Above: © 2022 Mark Raggett VPRWS

Below: *Lightstream* © 2022 Dion Salvador Lloyd



Above:

Stained glass portrait of Percy Bysshe Shelley

Left:

Cramps Ophthalmic Opticians' sign

Community lottery announces first £25k winner

HORSHAM DISTRICT
**COMMUNITY
LOTTERY**

make good things happen!

Our Horsham District Community Lottery was delighted to announce its first £25k winner recently.

The winning local lady wishes to remain anonymous but we can share that she selected to support Horsham-based Phoenix Stroke Club when buying her ticket.

Charities have been severely impacted by the effects of the pandemic and desperately need to raise more funds, which makes the role of the Council's Community Lottery more important than ever.

Launched in September 2019, it raises in the region of £60,000 annually for a wide variety of the District's voluntary and community groups.

It currently achieves around 1,900 weekly ticket sales with almost 1,000 regular weekly players. Since its launch some 100 local charities, volunteer groups, community



Below:
Founder of Rangers
Lodge Wildlife
Hospital (RLWH)
Jane Burrows with
one of her patients

Inset:
RLWH patients
being cared for

groups and local good causes have registered with the lottery and have benefitted from the considerable funds raised.

Nursing wildlife back to health

One of the organisations which now benefits from the lottery is the **Rangers Lodge Wildlife Hospital** in Colgate. The hospital, which is a not for profit organisation, provides sanctuary for local wildlife, treating sick, injured and orphaned wild animals and nursing them back to health. Their aim is then to release them back into the wild.

They can only survive and provide this great service from grateful donations from the local community.

Founder Jane Burrows said:

"The lottery funds we receive go straight into our charity bank account and pay for everyday medicines, food and equipment for our sick animals. They are also put towards the day to day running costs of the hospital.

"We are so thankful for the lottery funds which make a huge difference to us as we rely completely on donations and the work of volunteers."

GET INVOLVED



The Hospital team is currently looking for volunteers to help it with fundraising, book keeping and looking after the animals. If you would like to make a donation please visit www.rangerslodgewildlifehospital.wordpress.com.





Above:
Friends of Horsham
Park Group
volunteers

How the lottery works

Everyone buying a ticket can choose which community group they want to support. There are many different types of organisations to support, from sports clubs, school associations and amateur dramatic societies, to local environmental groups, community projects and those giving support to the vulnerable members of our community.

At these difficult times for so many organisations we would still encourage more groups and players to get involved – it's free to join, easy to sign up and every group has the potential to raise vital funds for their work.

All groups involved are also given marketing support to help them reach out to their supporters in what we know are challenging times for them.

Tickets cost just £1 each, with 60p in each pound going to support local good causes.

The lottery is run on behalf of Horsham District Council by external provider Gatherwell, which already runs a similar scheme for many other local councils.

GET INVOLVED



Community groups wanting to enrol and those wanting to buy tickets should visit www.horshamdistrictcommunitylottery.co.uk or call 01403 434010.

Keeping Horsham Park beautiful

Another regular recipient of lottery funds is the **Friends of Horsham Park Group**. The Friends of Horsham Park is a group of volunteers who work to protect, enhance and promote our beautiful park as a place of recreation and enjoyment for the local community. Each year the group receives some £550 from the sale of lottery tickets. These vital funds keep the group afloat and enable many non-grant funded activities.

Chair of the group Sally Sanderson commented:

"Lottery funds have been used to buy pollinator-friendly seeds and plants for our Wednesday morning volunteer gardening sessions. Our volunteers have donated over 1,000 hours in the last year to enhancing the park – planting, weeding, pruning and clearing paths.

"We have also used funds to create materials for free children's nature activities and to produce educational posters in the park about the six target species we support: bumble bees, hedgehogs, butterflies, stag beetles, redwings and fieldfares.

"A highlight for our lottery spending last year was the contribution of £200 towards the making of a 'Virtual Day Trip to Horsham Park' which combines short film clips of the park with activities and discussion for those unable to visit the park in person.

"Without the lottery funds we would have to spend more time fund raising to cover our running costs and charge for activities that are currently free. The funds help us to be inclusive in what we do and that's important – we believe everyone should be able to enjoy what our wonderful park has to offer."



please support us

Buy your
ticket now for a
chance to win
£25,000!

Giving Horsham District's young people a voice

Our Community Development team have recently developed the Horsham District Youth Forum with the aim of bringing young people aged 11 to 18 together to discuss topics which are important to them.



Above:
Participants enjoying pizza at one of our forums

The pandemic was particularly tough for our young people and we see the Youth Forum as a vitally important tool to encourage a two-way conversation between young people of the District and the Council. We want to better understand the views of those individuals who represent the future of the District and we are sure there is a hunger in the younger community to help shape future decision-making.

We believe that by adopting an approach primarily using social media, we will be able to establish a much wider network of engagement with this age group, though we will hold face to face meetings with them as well.

We encourage any young person who wants to be heard and is willing to work to seek change to join us.

Our first objective is to listen to participants. We will then work with them to increase awareness of the issues they identify, then work with council partners and parents to create change.

GET IN TOUCH



We currently meet at the Wellbeing Centre in central Horsham with pizza and drinks once a month. Please email us at youth@horsham.gov.uk if you have any queries or would like to become involved.

Are you a local landlord? Let with us



Our leasing and lettings schemes offer private sector landlords in the District the security of long-term lets with no admin fees.

Are you a local landlord? Do you want guaranteed tenants, no-fee management, and your property returned in the same state you left it? Our leasing and lettings schemes could be for you.

We recognise the important part local landlords play in meeting our District's housing need. Through these schemes we work together to house local families who are registered on our housing waiting list.

We offer two tiers of service:

Leasing service: You lease your property to us for three to five years. We pay you rent and take care of everything else: tenant management, inspections and some maintenance.

Lettings service: We find you a tenant for your property and they pay you rent at Local Housing Allowance Rates. We handle general maintenance and tenancy management.

The majority of people we house are local families registered on the housing waiting list in urgent need of accommodation. Most are families with children, and we also house single people, couples and older people.

When you sign up to our service you'll be helping your community and local people in need.

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Above: Margaret (right) with her Wellbeing Adviser, Rachael (left) at the Wellbeing Centre in Horsham

“Just go for it! The staff are all very helpful with lots of advice. You have absolutely nothing to lose!”

“So I signed up for the Weight off Workshops (WOW). I needed to change my eating habits and lose weight. WOW was fantastic. It was an encouraging environment with other like-

minded people who were all very supportive. The programme gives you lots of resources to use afterwards, leaflets and newsletters and ongoing exercises to do.”

Margaret’s Wellbeing Adviser Rachael commented:

“Margaret put in the effort and came to every session – she lost four kilos in weight and reduced her Body Mass Index from 30.4 to 28.9, reaching her 5% target – and she really enjoyed it.”

“Our Weight off Workshops offer a unique way to make healthy changes to your diet and lifestyle. They help you to lose weight without having to follow a traditional diet. We offer nutritional advice and behaviour change tools that help you to lose weight in a healthy and sustainable way, without the need to count and restrict calories. Each session offers information, advice and guidance on topics such as nutrition, stress, activity and the importance of sleep – all important aspects that contribute to maintaining a healthy weight and a healthy body and mind.”

The day we met up with Margaret she was attending the Wellbeing Centre for a Wellbeing MOT which is offered to all course participants. Margaret is continuing to make good progress and improves upon her results.

When asked if she would recommend our wellbeing services to others she said:

“Just go for it! The staff are all very helpful with lots of advice. You have absolutely nothing to lose!”

How Margaret is keeping strong and healthy

Do you want to improve your motivation and feel fitter? Perhaps you want to become more active and lose some weight? Or you may feel you would benefit from a healthier diet?

Why don’t you sign up for one of our health and wellbeing courses?

Here is Margaret’s story.

Margaret started her health and wellbeing journey with us by joining our Strong and Steady course for beginners back in June 2021. The course is a confidence building, low impact course that focuses on strength, balance, co-ordination and flexibility. It is for those who may feel a little unsteady on their feet and want to be stronger, improve their balance and get more active. Here’s what Margaret had to say about her experience.

“I was having trouble with my hip and knee and it was affecting my balance. I went through an assessment at the Wellbeing Centre and then started the eight week Strong and Steady course.

“My trainer was excellent. I never felt too pushed to do anything. She let me go at my own pace and was always available to chat about things at the end of the session.

“I found it really beneficial so I signed up to do the advanced course which was similar but more intense.

“I tell everybody about how good it was and it caters for everyone.

“Once I had finished the Strong and Steady courses I wanted to carry on and go to more courses, as I feel it is better than just doing exercises yourself at home.

horsham district
wellbeing



A free service

Horsham District Wellbeing is a free service for adults offering advice and support to help you access local services and improve your health and wellbeing. You can have a one to one appointment with a Wellbeing Adviser for things like losing weight, getting fitter, dealing with stress, kicking a habit, or simply improving your general wellbeing. We also offer a range of free courses to help you make changes and live life to the full.

GET IN TOUCH



Call our team on **01403 215111** or email us at **info@horshamdistrictwellbeing.org.uk** or visit to **www.horshamdistrictwellbeing.org.uk**.

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Enjoy great value discounts in our leisure centres

Apply for a Leisure
Access Card today!

Our Leisure Access Card is a free discount card that helps residents on low incomes and full-time students to save money when visiting local attractions such as going to the leisure centre, taking the children swimming, going bowling, catching a movie at The Capitol in Horsham or discovering Warnham Local Nature Reserve.

It's completely free and you can apply in just a few minutes.

APPLY



To find out more and apply for a Leisure Access Card, visit **www.horsham.gov.uk/lac**.

Please send any further queries you may have via email to **yoursay@horsham.gov.uk** or call us on **01403 215100**.



Horsham District BEFRIENDS



Horsham District Befriends

Could you be a Volunteer Befriender to someone in need?

We have partnered with Citizens Advice in West Sussex, the NHS, West Sussex County Council and various other organisations, to help deliver an exciting new service called Horsham District Befriends. The service supports people of all ages (18+) who have anxieties about leaving the house or who are feeling lonely.

Horsham District Befriends is looking for volunteers who can give one or two hours a week of their time for a pilot project that we hope will become an established service in the future. This is a great way to give something back to your local community in response to the pandemic, which has led to many

people feeling lonely and isolated. The project is aiming to match volunteers with people in need of some company. This could mean chatting on the phone, going for a walk or accompanying someone to a community group.

GET INVOLVED



To find out more and apply, scan the QR code or visit www.volunteerhorshamdistrict.co.uk, enter your postcode and search for 'Horsham District Befriends'.



Annual Canvass for the Register of Electors



The Annual Canvass is a process each local authority undertakes every year to update the Electoral Register. Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) are legally required to keep the register of eligible voters up to date.

From July to November 2022, we will contact every household in the District to find out if their details on the electoral register are correct. We will send a letter or an email, which will advise whether a reply is needed or not. You must reply if you are asked to do so.

If you don't reply, it will not only affect your right to vote, but it may also affect your ability to open a bank account, get credit, a loan or a mortgage, as the full register is checked by authorised credit agencies.

Don't leave registering to vote to only when you need a mortgage or credit, as due to the processes and timing, it can take several weeks before your entry is seen by the credit agencies.

Please don't delay replying or contacting us, as by responding promptly you can save time and expense, whilst avoiding reminders and personal visits.

FURTHER INFO



For more details visit www.horsham.gov.uk/council-democracy-and-elections/annual-canvass.

How our Community Link services can help you feel safer

Many think that our Community Link services are mainly intended for more elderly residents, but recently we have introduced a new range of technology-based products which can help people of all ages feel

safer if they are out and about on their own, or are lone workers.

These products can be ideal for joggers, those walking on their own in remote locations, children walking to and from school and those travelling at night, regardless of their age.



“I can now go out after two years and walk my dog”

Chiptech GO is a new wearable device benefitting from the latest cellular and GPS technologies. If you are out on your own for example, and you feel you need to activate the device, it would send an alert along with your exact GPS location to our monitoring centre where our advisers can find you help. Chiptech GO encourages you to have more independence in your day-to-day activities, if you are out and about, at home or at work, especially if you are a lone worker.

You can be confident in knowing that help is at your fingertips.



“You just feel safer and more secure. Press the button and a friendly voice is with you”

Our **Footprint** device is a GPS tracker with an SOS button and two-way communication. It pinpoints the location of the wearer and provides two-way hands free conversation through the built-in speaker. The device can be linked into family members or our monitoring centre.

The Footprint device enables independence whilst providing reassurance and safety.

A person-centred service

Using a person-centred approach, our advisers will discuss what technology and / or partner agency referrals would be best suited to support safety and independence.

We take great pride in the relationships we build with our service users and strive to maintain a high level of service delivery and continued support.

The Community Link service is regulated and audited by the TEC Services Association using a robust “Quality Standards Framework”.



Service adapted due to coronavirus

Throughout the pandemic our Community Link service has continued uninterrupted.

Our advisers have adapted their way of working to do initial assessments over the phone, and they can still visit homes to install equipment, whilst observing social distancing and adhering to government guidance on PPE.

GET IN TOUCH



If you, or someone you know, could benefit from the Community Link service please call **01403 215230** or email **community.link@horsham.gov.uk**.

Alternatively check out our website for more information on our full range of products **www.horsham.gov.uk/communitylink**.

Seven trails for seven towns



Join one of our new mystery trails! The trails have been launched in seven towns and villages across Horsham District to encourage locals and visitors to head back to the high streets.

The Mystery Trails invite participants to follow clues around each town to solve a puzzle involving a cast of colourful characters specifically created for the project. The trails are located in Billingshurst, Henfield, Horsham, Pulborough, Southwater, Steyning and Storrington.



They are designed to appeal to a wide range of people, including families (ages 8+), couples, retirees, groups of friends and work colleagues.

The main aim is to create an exciting experience that brings people together socially, connecting them to our stunning towns and villages.

To play the game, which could be described as an outdoor escape room, participants pick up a Mystery Trail map from the library in each town or village and follow the clues to solve the puzzle. The answers will help players uncover the final mystery back at the library by looking into the character's workspace window. Players can follow one trail or complete all seven to reveal the final chapter of the mystery.



The project has been enabled with government Welcome Back funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The Council has worked with Horsham based business Whistlestop Arts to create the trails.

CHOOSE A TRAIL



Choose a trail now at **www.whistlestoparts.org/mysterytrails**. Download the Mystery Trail maps or go to the library of each town and ask for a map. To hear a special recorded message from Agent Meadows, one of the trail's unique characters, call **0333 3660 256**.

Follow us on social media:
@hdmysterytrails – hashtags #mysterytrails, #secretseekers and #curatorsalliance

Welcome back... we are open for business

Whilst trading has been tough for our local businesses recently, they are now well and truly on the road to recovery.

As part of our Economic Development team's recovery strategy we have supported lots of initiatives to boost local businesses funded by the Government's Welcome Back programme.

Our Welcome Back to Horsham video was commissioned to showcase Horsham town's hospitality and retail sectors, giving them a boost after the lockdowns lifted. Check it out and spot some of your favourite haunts on the Horsham District Council YouTube channel.

Retail and hospitality businesses were given a further boost by our district-wide Retail Training Programme, featuring a broad range of different workshops including how to make your business more Instagrammable, a social media photography masterclass and top tips on how to photograph products. A Talent Masterclass focussed on finding and hiring the right employees, and training modules on tax and accounting for small businesses were delivered across the District.

FURTHER INFO



For further information on any of our various schemes please email **business.development@horsham.gov.uk**.

www.horsham.gov.uk



HM Government



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



Horsham
District
Council

New WISH 50+ Support Hub for the over 50s



We have recently launched our new employability support hub for local people who are aged over 50.

Based in Lavinia House (behind the Drill Hall on Denne Road) in Horsham, WISH 50+ provides weekly sessions on many different topics, which help people back into work or on the road to getting back into employment or volunteering. We have access to local recruiters and vacancies, and can help prepare you for opportunities you might be interested in.

The sessions, running between 12noon and 3pm, are group-based and cover topics such as career planning, making job applications, preparing for interviews, and dealing with work challenges.



We also provide specific support for those who need IT help to be able to access and apply for jobs online, as well as helping our members with health and wellbeing support.

The hub is a friendly place to meet people, where you can learn how to help yourself, and be supported in whatever way you need it, and if you need more personal one to one help, we can offer that too.

GET IN TOUCH



Contact journey2work@horsham.gov.uk for more information or go to our website www.horsham.gov.uk/jobs-and-careers/get-help-to-find-a-job.

The Y-WISH Youth Hub

If you are between the ages of 18 and 24 and need some advice and guidance on your future career and work plans, the Y-WISH Youth Employment Hub in Horsham's Swan Walk is the place to go.

We help with CVs, job applications, interviews, and can guide you through the maze of job sites and apprenticeship options, and introduce you to ideas you may never have considered. We also work with lots of specialist partners, who can support anything else you may need help with.

GET IN TOUCH



We will help you build your confidence and help you open up a world of opportunity. Call the team on **01403 21533**, email journey2work@horsham.gov.uk or drop in – we are open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.

Getting you into work

We run an employment project for local people who are over the age of 24 called In2Work, another offer from the Journey to Work team at the Council.



We provide one to one support and mentoring - face to face or virtual; careers and job seeking advice; CV reviews and interview support and any other support you need through our partners.

GET IN TOUCH



Contact our In2Work Support Officer on **01403 215104** or email journey2work@horsham.gov.uk for more information.

Employment support for all

For more information about local job opportunities, careers advice, and employment support, visit our Jobsfair website – www.jobsfair.horsham.gov.uk.

Horsham Park wins national bee-friendly award

Work to support pollinating insects in Horsham Park has been recognised with a national Bees' Needs award.

The Council and The Friends of Horsham Park Group are delighted to have won the national award for their exemplary work to support the development of pollinator plants in the park.

The Bees' Needs Awards, sponsored by Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), recognise and celebrate

best practice examples of initiatives to support pollinator flowers and plants, restoring and providing food and homes for pollinating insects.

This is a very special achievement and it is great to see that the dedicated bee bed, a legacy project from the Council's 2019 Year of Culture, is continuing to make such a difference, both to the appearance of the park and to the local environment.

We hope the planting inspires people to select pollinator-friendly plants for their own gardens. Even a pot on

Above:
Bees' Needs Award
for Horsham Park

a balcony can be a great nectar bar for bees in an urban environment.

Environment Minister Rebecca Pow MP sent a personal letter of congratulations to our Parks and Countryside team and the volunteers from Friends of Horsham Park.

The annual Bees' Needs Awards took place online in November 2021.



Above:
Planting bulbs at
new Bluebell Park

Coming together for new Bluebell Park

During the spring we asked our residents to come and join us for a planting event at the Bluebell Park play area in Holbrook, Horsham.

Our army of volunteers helped to plant over 1,000 English Bluebells to enhance the area ahead of it being refurbished.

The refurbishment of the playground equipment, which will provide improved play facilities for younger children, is completed and the play area is now open for all to enjoy.

Shelley honoured

The bicentenary of the death of Horsham-born poet Percy Bysshe Shelley was officially marked by the planting of a symbolic chestnut tree in the new Shelley Wildlife Garden at Warnham Local Nature Reserve.

Historical documentation has indicated to us that Shelley often sat under a chestnut tree near the Reserve's Millpond. This is where he took a lot of his inspiration for his work. Shelley died on 8 July 1822 as a result of a boating accident in Italy at the age of 29.





Above:
Cllr Toni Bradnum with a food waste bin and kitchen caddy



Looking to dispose of your DIY rubbish?

Bulky Bag could be the answer.

For that rubbish clearance that doesn't really need a skip, but is too much to stick in the car and take to the tip, why not try our Bulky Bag service?

We can deliver you a Bulky Bag for all your refuse and pick it up within ten working days when you are finished with it.

Perfect for house clearances, DIY home projects, garden waste, rubble and commercial waste.

With three sizes to choose from, there's a Bulky Bag to suit every job.

ORDER TODAY



To find out more go to www.horsham.gov.uk/bulkybag or call us on 01403 739391.

Food waste trial results are in!

Results from a recent food waste collection trial amongst selected residents are now in and have been analysed by our Recycling and Waste team.

Some 100 households in the Horsham District recently took part in a new recycling and waste collection trial to include separate collections of food waste and Absorbent Hygiene Products (AHP).

Top line results have shown:

- On average each trial household collected 3.05kg of food waste per week
- On average general waste was cut from 6kg to 4kg per household per week
- Participants cut the overall amount they put into their green-top bins by one third
- The capacity of our 140 litre green-top waste bins proved sufficient to cope with a three weekly collection
- Participants found the food waste collection process really easy.

The trial service used a '1-2-3' collection system, as follows:

1. Weekly food waste collections and an optional, free subscription service of AHP collections
2. Existing fortnightly recycling (blue-top bin) collections and garden waste (charged, subscription service)
3. Three weekly general waste (green-top bin) collections.

The Government is looking to make separate food waste collections mandatory in the future.

Collected food waste was taken to an Anaerobic Digester which breaks it down into bio fertiliser for use on land, and a biogas, which can be used for generating energy.

No decision has been made on the future pattern of waste collections but this trial should pave the way to building upon our current great recycling record.

FURTHER INFO

You can learn more about the trial, find out useful tips on reducing your food waste and sign up to our Waste and Recycling email newsletter by visiting www.horsham.gov.uk/foodwaste.



[f](#) [t](#) [i](#) @HorshamDC



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chris.brown@horsham.gov.uk

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Cllr Kate Rowbottom (Conservative)

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michael.croker@horsham.gov.uk

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Nuthurst and Lower Beeding

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Disclaimer: Contents of this magazine were correct at the time of going to print.

Sign up to receive Our District digitally

It has never been more important for councils to communicate effectively with a broad range of people, from residents and at risk groups to businesses and community organisations.

You can now read Our District magazine online on your computer, tablet or smartphone. The website allows you to keep up to speed with everything that is going on, discover more about our services and share stories with family and friends more easily.

FURTHER INFO

Visit magazine.horsham.gov.uk to read all the past editions.

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Contact us

Community Link

01403 215230

Electoral Services

elections@horsham.gov.uk
01403 215126

Environmental Health

publichealth.licensing@horsham.gov.uk
01403 215641

Housing

Homeless enquiries
housing@horsham.gov.uk

Housing application enquiries

housing.applications@horsham.gov.uk
01403 215204

National Benefit Fraud Hotline

0800 854 4400

Council Tax, business rates and benefits

08081 648610

Licensing

licensing@horsham.gov.uk

Alcohol licensing

01403 215578

Hackney carriage private hire licensing

01403 215471

Parking

parking@horsham.gov.uk
01403 215379

Planning Services

Development Management
General enquiries
planning@horsham.gov.uk
01403 215187

Building Control

General enquiries and helpline
building.control@horsham.gov.uk
01403 215151

Recycling and Bins

Including trade waste, litter, garden waste, cleansing and dog fouling
yoursay@horsham.gov.uk
01403 733144

Leisure facilities

Billingshurst Leisure Centre
01403 787500

Blackbridge Community Centre
www.horsham.gov.uk/community/rooms-for-hire/blackbridge-community-centre

Steyning Sports and Swimming Centre
01903 879666

The Bridge Leisure Centre
01403 211311

The Pavilions In The Park
01403 219200

The Capitol, Horsham
01403 750220
www.thecapitolhorsham.com

Horsham Drill Hall
01403 211436

Horsham Park Barn bookings
01403 756088

Horsham Museum & Art Gallery
01403 254959
www.horshammuseum.org

Rookwood Golf Course
01403 252123

Southwater Country Park
01403 731218

Warnham Local Nature Reserve
01403 256890

For all other general enquiries

contact@horsham.gov.uk
01403 215100

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Thu 15 & Fri 16 September
SHOWSTOPPER!
THE IMPROVISED MUSICAL



Fri 23 & Sat 24 September
MOTIONHOUSE: NOBODY



Thu 6 – Sat 8 October
FRIENDSICAL



Sat 22 October
OMID DJALILI:
THE GOOD TIMES TOUR