

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2008

‘All Our Futures’ Developing a Sustainable Community Strategy for Horsham District

***THURSDAY 23RD OCTOBER 2008, 5.00 – 8.00 PM
The Chamber, Horsham District Council, Park North, North Street, Horsham***

NOTES FROM THE BREAK OUT GROUPS

November 2008

INTRODUCTION

More than 100 people attended the Community Partnership's Annual Conference on 23rd October 2008 in the Council Offices.

The aims of the meeting were to raise awareness among the wider Partnership of the preparation of the Horsham District Sustainable Community Strategy by March 2009, and to reflect on, add to and prioritise the issues arising from the recent 'Visioning Horsham District' consultation.

Delegates were divided into six Break Out Groups. The notes from the Break Out sessions are attached.

The Conference brings to an end the public consultation on the vision for Horsham District, which will underpin the Sustainable Community Strategy. The next steps are to draft the Strategy, highlighting the priorities from the consultation, and then to consult with the District Council's partners on what they can do to achieve them.

**HORSHAM DISTRICT COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP
ANNUAL CONFERENCE – 23rd OCTOBER 2008
NOTES FROM BREAK OUT GROUPS**

GROUP: 1

THEME: A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE

Essential Issue	Objective	Lead and other Partners	Priority
<u>Housing</u> - Affordable but to a high standard. Need to be 'attractive' - Smart technology. Need to be adaptable	- Adaptable – stay in homes at all ages “Lifetime Homes” standards. - Energy Efficiency - Smaller Homes – integrated with better space standards - Starter Homes - Larger Homes/more expensive – safer community		1
<u>Travel & Transport</u> - Villages. E.g. Billingshurst – micro schemes suited to community - Needs to work – tailor made - Voluntary & community sector - Car hire in London - Bikes	- Joined up public transport/integrated - Do we know enough about it? Greater understanding most car owners - New developments have better public transport to serve, have option		4
<u>Environmental Sustainability</u> - Car parking. Government guidelines and development - Lack of car parking underground	- Housing sustainability – source of energy needs to be renewable e.g. solar, eco friendly e.g. 6 in Billingshurst/heat exchange - Where housing is built – e.g. not in flood plain – sustainable drainage - Access to estates		2
<u>Rural Affairs</u> - Wider spread of facilities/amenities. E.g. swimming pools, supermarkets - People don't	- “Hub” development. E.g. Billingshurst area/ Storrington area - How each central for wider community		2

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Double yellow lines only if fatality? Waiting for accidents to happen - Lorries flouting weight limits <p><u>Crime & Fear of Crime</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why are we so fearful? - Horsham is a safe place - Risk is very very low - At top of all indicators for similar safe areas of reported crime - What about domestic violence? - Priority of Police but still one of the safest places - Burglaries, less than 1 per day in District - Encourage ownership of community - “Designing out crime” - “Elderly” Housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Old people/elderly and young people are scared of “young people hanging around at night” - Don’t want lots of Police around because people worry more - No graffiti - Lighting - Natural security issues - Media prefer sensation stories not good news - Police public relations - Possible objective. Neighbourhood wardens – can’t arrest. If young people know this it won’t affect the situation but PCSO’s get to know. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education – Intergenerational work E.g. Forest School 	3
Desirable Issue	Objective	Lead and other Partners	Priority
None.			

GROUP: 2
THEME: OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

Essential Issue	Objective	Lead and other Partners	Priority
<p>Economic Growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gatwick Airport <p>Gatwick Diamond is important as an economic driver.</p> <p>Need sufficient appropriate quality employment space (not just office space).</p>			2
			2
			1

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<p>Need to be mindful of Crawley's impact on Horsham's offer.</p> <p>Skills and education</p> <p>Local opportunities for young people. Not necessarily university education, also vocational education.</p> <p>Need to make young people aware of educational choices e.g. 6th form, vocational – Chichester College, Crawley College etc.</p> <p>Voluntary and Community Sector</p> <p>Need for volunteers growing level of responsibility of volunteer increasing.</p> <p>Leisure and Cultural Opportunities</p> <p>Need reasonably priced day time café – 'chill out' area</p> <p>Not necessary to provide 'night life' entertainment for young people – not required by the majority.</p> <p>Need to be in town centre location – safe.</p> <p>Tourism</p> <p>Attract and accommodate B&B etc</p>			3
			4
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			4
Desirable Issue	Objective	Lead and other Partners	Priority
Leisure and Cultural Opportunities			
Leisure and cultural			

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Opportunities for young people e.g. night life.			
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GROUP: 2
THEME: BETTER HEALTH FOR ALL

Essential Issue	Objective	Lead and other Partners	Priority
<p>Ageing Population</p> <p>Support for independent living. Volunteers have an important role to play.</p> <p>(need to consider transport links and improve)</p> <p>Access issues for older people in town as well as rural areas. Transport to be timely and in right locations.</p> <p>Long term plan for voluntary groups to work on preventative schemes.</p> <p>Great pressures on primary and community services need for more training. Poverty issue for older people – can't afford to pay for facilities privately.</p> <p>General Health</p> <p>Need to promote/encourage healthy living and active lifestyles. Start at home – school – good habits taken into later life. Very important in a long term plan as action taken now will influence adult life.</p> <p>Leisure Access card</p>			<p>1</p> <p>2</p>

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should be heavily promoted in 6 th form.			
Children and Health			
Need greater mental health provision and advice.			
Desirable Issue	Objective	Lead and other Partners	Priority
None.			

GROUP: 3

THEME: A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE

Essential Issue	Objective	Lead and other Partners	Priority
Affordable Housing	<p>People with local connections first.</p> <p>Maintain thriving private sector.</p> <p>Private rented sector to be increased.</p> <p>More YMCA type housing across the district.</p> <p>More shared/mo? Property at affordable rates.</p> <p>More diverse models of accommodation, including a range of shared ownership models.</p> <p>Low cost open market property.</p> <p>Small houses not flats for the future.</p> <p>Be able to control the buy to let market as this drives up house prices.</p>		
Environmental Issues			
Extend recycling to businesses	Not enough help to recycle – goes to landfill.		

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Regenerate closed shops	To help people purchase local produce. Less packaging.		
Reduce business rates and encourage social enterprises	Free enterprise to help the above grow – helps to reduce carbon footprint for the district.		
Transport			
Not a uniform service across the town let alone rural areas.	Implement community transport for all age groups.		
Unable to provide services (times people need) for single families, youth, elderly, and families with no car.	Need a survey of need for the whole of the district area by area.		
Times that transport finish especially for the youth.			
Transport to hospitals.			
Outreach services	For all areas as they are unable to sustain in every area		
Buses to meet trains instead of people being collected, extra cars on the road for 1 person.			
More bikes to be used	Need proper cycle lanes. Use 106 monies.		
Environment issues			
Education essential	Important children are taught early so they can change producers and packaging.		
Rural Areas			
Keep the area accessible – infrastructure.			
Need focal points e.g. village halls	Need funding to keep up and encourage the community to use.		

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Need money to drive this area forward to generate jobs for the district.			
Desirable Issue	Objective	Lead and other Partners	Priority
None.			

GROUP: 3
THEME: STAYING AND FEELING SAFE

Essential Issue	Objective	Lead and other Partners	Priority
<p>Youth disorder</p> <p>Educate young and older people not to fear each other.</p> <p>Drink issues with the youth and adults</p> <p>Road Safety</p> <p>Accidents are a concern with the youth.</p> <p>Road safety awareness is on the decline.</p>	<p>To provide places for them to go to get off the streets.</p> <p>Change views that the media play on how bad the youth is.</p> <p>Youth bars (soft drinks only). Need more parenting programmes.</p> <p>Should be written in to school and youth programmes.</p> <p>Bring back schemes like the squirrel. Walking bus to school.</p> <p>Make a strategy from nursery to school compulsory.</p> <p>Offer funding for no compliance.</p>	<p>Police, Fire services, schools.</p>	
Desirable Issue	Objective	Lead and other Partners	Priority
<p>To set up schemes where the youth and other age groups meet (scheme in Billingshurst)</p> <p>More intergenerational events – fun days.</p> <p>Educate parents on road safety</p>	<p>To break down barriers and encourage better understanding of each other.</p> <p>To give children an awareness from pre school</p>	<p>County.</p>	

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	days about road safety.		
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GROUP: 4
THEME: OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

Essential Issue	Objective	Lead and other Partners	Priority
<u>Employment Type & Provision</u>	- To change the type of employment in the District to more value – Added with some growth But with appropriate infrastructure		All Essential
<u>Skills Base in the District</u>	- To improve the range of training opportunities for skilled trades to the benefit of the District		
<u>Lack of Access to Leisure Facilities</u>	- To improve the access to leisure facilities in terms of times, transport and cost, age groups and the actual facilities themselves		
Desirable Issue	Objective	Lead and other Partners	Priority
None.			

GROUP: 4
THEME: BETTER HEALTH FOR ALL

Essential Issue	Objective	Lead and other Partners	Priority
<u>Access to the Health Facilities</u>	- Reduce the need to travel to health facilities by better preventions		All Essential
<u>Dissemination of Health Related Information</u>	- Improve information networks, counsellor facilities and advertising of the facilities, use of best practice examples		
<u>Inter-Generational Relationships</u>	- Improve and use intergenerational relationships in positive ways to improve physical and mental wellbeing of all residents		

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Desirable Issue	Objective	Lead and other Partners	Priority
None.			

GROUP: 5

THEME: BETTER HEALTH FOR ALL

Essential Issue	Objective	Lead and other Partners	Priority
General health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Education • Active lifestyles – maintain active independent lifestyles (re ageing population) • Retain Horsham Hospital + realise its potential • Better access to acute services • Emotional wellbeing 		
Responding to needs of ageing population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of facilities / services given increasing ageing population – ensure good affordable care homes available when needed • Ensuring affordability of support for older people to remain independent 		
Promoting better health from day one	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low level support, eg breastfeeding • Life long support • Affordable opportunities to lead better lifestyles 		
Ready and affordable access to All (Rural important but not unique) – addressing inequalities, eg transport (availability out of hours, cost)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognising additional needs, eg special needs provision, disability – diversity • Protecting choice 		

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<p>Appropriate and accessible information</p> <p>Increased reliance on voluntary and community sector (VCS) – its capacity to manage increasing demand</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joined up maximisation of technology • Understanding health services – who to access for what • One stop internet site • Texting facility 		
Desirable Issue	Objective	Lead and other Partners	Priority
None.			

GROUP: 5

THEME: STAYING AND FEELING SAFE

Essential Issue	Objective	Lead and other Partners	Priority
<p>Crime and Fear of Crime</p> <p>Respect and Social Inclusion</p> <p>Road Safety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ataching appropriate gravitas to issues • Separately target individual needs / fears of individual groups – diversity in fear of crime • Uniform presence on streets – improved approachability + confidence • Alcohol's implications / effects on crime and fear of crime • Community cohesion – people to feel part of community = responsibility • Prevention – review speed limits, less than 30mph in some areas • Education – speed 		

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Personal Wellbeing – individual's place in society, eg relationship, financial insecurity, perceptions	<p>limits, good driving habits, 'pass +' / advanced driving skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Behaviour changes in parents – kids walking to school with parents, not driven, will improve road safety awareness 		
Desirable Issue	Objective	Lead and other Partners	Priority
None.			

GROUP: 6

THEME: A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE

Essential Issue	Objective	Lead and other Partners	Priority
<p><u>Housing</u></p> <p>- Balancing provision of affordable homes & need long term – changing life cycles and need</p> <p>- Need for assured short-term tenancies to address those in 'intermediate' need without permanent subsidy</p> <p>- More innovation in intermediate products needed – joined up approach needed by RSL/HDC</p> <p>- The right types of dwellings & houses/gardens – flats</p> <p>- And flats too small</p> <p><u>Key Themes</u></p> <p>- Balance of provision</p> <p>- Integration of services</p> <p>- Promotion of what we have</p> <p><u>Transport & Community Transport</u></p> <p>- Better co-ordination of public transport</p> <p>- Reducing the need to travel</p> <p>- Changing the way cars are</p>			

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<u>Retail Mix/Decline</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> used <u>not</u> demonise cars - Better integration of public/private/community transport - Views of people need considering - Switching resources to demand-led schemes - Cost of retail units - Emphasis on goods/services not suited to internet shopping - Retail incubators – low cost to test ideas - More of a comprehensive offering. E.g. more links to ‘Arts’ and hub for wider countryside (needs resources) - Need to find a balance of provision to attract visitors and drew them into town 		
Desirable Issue	Objective	Lead and other Partners	Priority
None.			

GROUP: 6
THEME: OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

Essential Issue	Objective	Lead and other Partners	Priority
<u>Employment & Skills</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to attract quality employers - Build on high-skills base (to attract employers) - Need for high level of possibly technical education - Need to effectively promote education/skills training advantages we have - Business accommodation (E.g. Start-up/move on units) 		
<u>Leisure/Culture</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Culture of eating out with ‘added value’ E.g. jazz club – more need for younger people - More affordable space for groups/societies - Database to improve information of what is 		

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	available for 'per hour' rent. HDC as 'broker' - Building on heritage assets "Horsham experience" and promoting market towns - Arts festival opportunities building on assets and tours District		
Desirable Issue	Objective	Lead and other Partners	Priority
None.			