



Horsham District Community Partnership (HDCP) is a voluntary partnership led by Horsham District Council which comprises public, private, voluntary and community organisations working together to improve the way communities access the services and opportunities they need in a sustainable way. For further information, contact: Horsham District Council Strategic Planning & Performance on (01403) 215184 or visit HDCP's website at: [www.hdcp.uk.net](http://www.hdcp.uk.net)

## HDCP News

This issue of HDCP Newswire concentrates on the Partnership's Annual Conference, held on 4<sup>th</sup> April, and what happens next to implement the Horsham District Sustainable Community Strategy, *All Our Futures*.

### HDCP Annual Conference - 4<sup>th</sup> April



PROMOTING independence for older people including increasing availability of low level help at home and addressing the shortage of care facilities was voted the top priority at the HDCP Annual Conference last month.

Representatives of local organisations including the district and county councils, the police and NHS, as well as businesses and voluntary groups were asked to rank a list of objectives for the district.

Using interactive technology and remote control handsets, they voted on 25 issues drawn from *All Our Futures*, the Sustainable Community Strategy for Horsham District published in 2009.

Independence for older people came out top. But following close behind were:

- Reduce anti-social behaviour and target hotspots
- Provide strong support for carers
- Enable a 'training and work opportunities culture' for young people
- Reduce casualties on our roads

Other favourites in the top ten included increasing public awareness of community groups, promoting the district as business friendly, and increasing partnership working between district-wide and local groups.

About 100 people attended the meeting held at County Hall North and the independent chairman Gary Shipton - who is also Editor In Chief of the County Times group - said the partnership would use the results to inform their workplan in the coming year.

But he accepted that the make-up of the audience was not entirely representative of the district as a whole and agreed that the results may have been slightly different if more younger people had attended.



Gary Shipton

Earlier in the evening, there was an examination of the government's Big Society agenda and whether groups across the district can do more to make it a reality at grass roots. This session was led by Davy Jones, a specialist in the field.

The meeting was also updated by the Chairmen of the four HDCP Goal Groups on the progress the Partnership is making in a variety of ways since the publication of the 'All Our Futures' strategy - from encouraging more low cost housing and better community transport to seeking to attract more employers and employment opportunities to the district; from improving health and well-being for all to working with the police and the community in helping to crack crime and dispel unreasonable fear of crime.

You can see the full results of the conference voting and the consolidated report of the Goal Groups on progress with their current priorities by visiting the Partnership's website [www.hdcp.uk.net](http://www.hdcp.uk.net) and clicking on Annual Conference 2011 under Latest News.

(With thanks to the West Sussex County Times for the photographs)



Davy Jones



Gary Shipton, Davy Jones and the Chairmen of the 4 HDCP Goal Groups - ltr: David Standfast, Chief Executive of Saxon Weald; Ann Corkery, Consultant in Public Health Medicine, NHS West Sussex; Natalie Brahma-Pearl, Director of Community Services, Horsham District Council; and Jackie Johnston, Principal of the College of Richard Collyer

### What does this mean for HDCP?

The Annual Conference on 4<sup>th</sup> April marked the end of the first full year's work by HDCP since the publication of *All Our Futures*. With the exception of Goal Group 4 (the Community Safety Partnership) which has a statutory duty to look at a wide range of issues in tackling crime and disorder, the goal groups have each focussed on a few priorities and reported good progress in addressing them.

The Annual Conference was an opportunity to ask the 'wider partnership' whether the goal groups are heading in the right direction. Clearly there was a concern that the audience wasn't representative of the district as a whole and therefore following the meeting a certain amount of additional consultation was undertaken with other groups of stakeholders including representatives of services for children and young people. This elicited support for more affordable housing in the district, helping families in greatest need, and delivering a co-ordinated community transport system. The results of the additional consultation are contained in the report 'HDCP Priorities and Next Steps' considered by HDCP Board on 12<sup>th</sup> May which you can view on the Partnership's website under Latest News.

At its meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> May to consider all the feedback, HDCP Board felt that, by and large, the goal groups' current priorities have been endorsed. At this stage, the work is on-going, with final results still to be seen.

However, the Board cautioned against complacency and instructed the goal groups each to consider carefully the consultation feedback relevant to them. The Board advised that qualitative feedback of the sort delivered through the voting exercises needs to be balanced by statistical evidence and the goal groups must have regard to this as well in planning for the future. Moreover, with the national focus on greater

localism as discussed at conference and supported through the voting, the Board tasked each goal group to produce an assessment as to how local people can be involved in its future work.

You can follow the progress of the goal groups' action plans on the Partnership's website at [www.hdcp.uk.net](http://www.hdcp.uk.net)



### CASH BACK FOR CLEAN ENERGY

Take advantage of the Government's feed-in tariff for solar electricity of 43.3p\* for every kWh you generate whether you use it yourself or not. The tariff is guaranteed for 25 years and will rise in line with the Retail Price Index (RPI) which ensures that each year it follows the rate of inflation.

Your home-generated electricity is free for you to use. Then, any electricity you don't use is fed back into the grid and you get paid for this at an export tariff of 3p per kWh.

The feed-in tariffs have been set at a level which should enable anyone investing in the installation of renewable electricity generating equipment to make about 7-9% return on that investment over its lifetime.

#### Is solar electricity suitable for my home?

You will need a roof or wall that faces within 90 degrees of south, and is not overshadowed by trees or buildings. Solar panels are not light and the roof must be strong enough to take their weight, especially if the panel is placed on top of existing tiles.

According to the Energy Saving Trust, a typical home solar photovoltaic (PV) system can generate around 40% of the electricity a household uses in a year. To find out whether your home is suitable, visit [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk) free impartial advice



#### Case Study

Horsham resident and council worker Louise Skipton-Carter took the plunge at the end of last year and had a 3.3 kWp solar electricity system installed on her roof.

Louise says: *"Even in the winter, my system is generating a surprisingly large amount of electricity. You do not need full sunshine, you can still generate some electricity on a cloudy day. It is great to see my electricity meter going backwards!"*

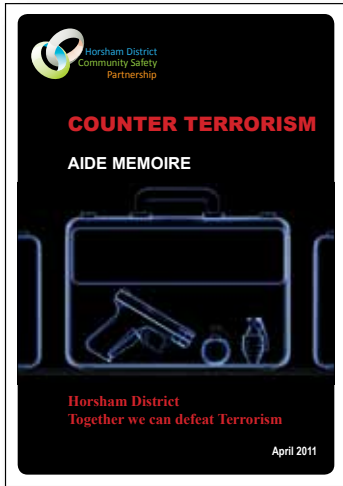
*"Taking into account the orientation of the panels, my new system is estimated to generate over 2300 kWh per year. This will give me an income of about £1100 per year. As electricity prices rise, this income will increase and the income from the feed-in tariff is guaranteed for 25 years."*

#### Remember:

Before you invest in renewable or low carbon energy systems you should always make sure your house is as energy efficient as possible, so that the energy you generate is not wasted. To qualify for the feed-in tariff the system has to be installed by a Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) registered installer, see [www.microgenerationcertification.org](http://www.microgenerationcertification.org).

\* Feed-in tariff of 43.3p/kWh applies for all new installations of ≤4 kW retrofitted up to 31.03.12.

# Counter-Terrorism Aide-Memoire



Horsham District Community Safety Partnership (HDCP Goal Group 4) has produced a counter terrorism aide-memoire with the approval of Sussex Police Counter Terrorism Unit. The intention of the document is to highlight the role the community plays in defeating terrorism and give advice on what to do in the event of coming across a suspicious object.

<http://www.horsham.gov.uk/files/CounterAideMemoire.pdf>

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Published by Horsham District Community Partnership, May 2011