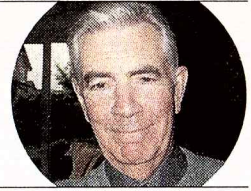


Horsham Society

by Rod Cuming



Avoiding the ticking time bombs

In recent weeks the letters page of this newspaper has seen many complaints about the re-routing of traffic in and around Broadbridge Heath.

The genesis of the complaints can be found in the planning applications made and approved many years ago.

No doubt concerns were raised at the time but as the bulldozers ripped into the fields south of the village and as the oak trees were reduced to piles of timber and as new houses started to spring up like mushrooms, it would be understandable if original fears about road configuration faded.

Indeed as traffic flows continued unchanged along the A264 for some years, it may be that many thought nothing would change after all.

Then the time bomb exploded. The 'Road Closed' signs appeared. Vehicles were diverted. Local residents were outraged. A petition was started. All too late to change or stop the plans in hand.

Similar but even greater chaos and upset is in train for the northern edge of Horsham as plans for industrial, commercial and residential development move relentlessly forward.

This stretch of the A264 and the A24



The Broadbridge Heath road changes have come in for widespread criticism

leading to it can expect to be choked by streams of HGVs and newly generated residential traffic aided and abetted by a series of mitigating measures to include traffic lights and changes to roundabout configuration.

At the western end the application for an incinerator in Langhurst Wood Road grinds ever forward.

West Sussex County Council threw out the most recent application following a huge number of objections from local residents but the applicant, Britaniacrest Recycling

Ltd, has taken its case to planning appeal which is currently scheduled for October 29.

It will take a mammoth effort by Horsham residents to fight and succeed against this appeal.

You may be very pleased to have an incinerator in Horsham but, if you are not, you might like to check out the website for 'No Incinerator 4 Horsham', aka Ni4H, a residents' group opposing the application, to see how you might support its efforts.

If the Britaniacrest appeal succeeds Horsham will enjoy a brand new 36-metre-

high facility in the fields, a landmark 95-metre-high chimney stack plus plume and risk having a higher volume of HGV's servicing the site.

Added to this will be the impact of the North of Horsham Development with its planned 2,750 dwellings plus schools, a business park and much more besides.

We have lost the Liberty Property Company, a self-proclaimed long-term investor, and we have gained Legal and General which has already confirmed that it will adopt the current outline planning approval.

There is no doubt that this huge development will go forward in some form or other and will generate regular and irritating disruption to traffic flows as the work goes through its phases over many years, as well as adding steadily to the volume of traffic as the development is populated.

L&G needs to be open with its detailed plans and proposals giving local residents not only fair warning of what is to come but also providing opportunities to comment constructively.

Maybe future time bomb surprises can then be avoided.