

Horsham Society

by Ron Bates
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Like buses two draft plans come at once

One is a draft Neighbourhood Plan from the Horsham Neighbourhood Councils of Denne, Trafalgar and Forest published on 10th February. This area of Horsham is not a parish so it was necessary to set up a new non-political organisation to create the plan - Horsham Blueprint Business Neighbourhood Forum.

If you live, work, visit or study in Denne, Trafalgar or Forest you should have your say about the draft Neighbourhood Plan. Comments need to be registered by 24th March 2020.

The other is a draft new Local Plan for the whole of Horsham district from Horsham District Council published on 17th February.

If you are a resident or stakeholder in Horsham district you should have your say about the draft Local Plan. Comments need to be registered by 30th March 2020.

Both draft plans provide an opportunity to influence the future development of Horsham town and Horsham district over the next 15 years.

The Blueprint Neighbourhood Plan has been produced following an invitation by



the Government to local communities to prepare a plan describing their local needs. The Blueprint Committee is made up of volunteers working in consultation with the local community, local civic groups and local businesses. Alison Eardley Consulting was employed later to help create the published draft.

The Plan, developed from surveys of local people's likes, dislikes, ideas and wishes, led to the creation of a vision and a set of broad objectives. The objectives include

safeguarding, conserving and enhancing green spaces, protecting sporting and leisure facilities, facilitating pedestrian access and cycling, ensuring that Horsham town is a safe, welcoming and good place to live and work in and much more, including initiatives that offset the impacts of climate change. All these objectives have helped refine the specific policies included within the Blueprint Neighbourhood Plan.

The draft Blueprint Plan will be amended from comments received and passed to HDC for review by an independent examiner. HDC will publish the outcome and then decide if the plan should go forward to public referendum. This could be late summer 2020

Horsham District Council are required by central Government to produce a 'Local Plan to ensure that housing and jobs are provided to meet local needs and that there is a healthy, happy and prosperous community in the future'.

The draft Local Plan sets out planning policies and proposals for new development and when adopted will be used to help determine planning applications in the district. If there was no local plan, planners would be less able to require the

schools, open space and road upgrades that are need to support development. No fewer houses would be built and it could prove impossible to resist inappropriate development.

The draft Local Plan will be amended from comments received and then passed to the Planning Inspectorate for review by an independent examiner. If successful the plan can be formally adopted. This could be late 2021.

Everyone in the designated areas covered by each draft plan should take the opportunity to give feedback and shape the future of Horsham.

Visit the Blueprint Plan website - www.horshamblueprint.org/draft-plan

Visit the Horsham District Local Plan website - www.horsham.gov.uk/planning/localplan

The Horsham Society is concerned about the past, present and future of the town. It seeks to promote good planning and design for the built environment and open spaces. Membership of the Horsham Society is open to anyone who shares these concerns. For more information, visit the website www.horshamsociety.org or phone 01403 259038.