

Discouraging to see the mess in parts of town centre



by
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I WAS interested to see that an updated 'Horsham Time Well Spent' leaflet has been produced with a view to encouraging visitors to come and experience all that the town offers.

It was also encouraging to find that the three neighbourhood councils had supported the production of the new leaflet.

This type of promotional material is wonderful but we have to try and ensure that nothing lets us down, if and when it attracts people into the town.

Any offer has to ensure that first time visitors want to return and they are not switched off by what

they see. The appearance of the town centre is very important in this respect.

That's why it's so discouraging at the moment is to see the mess that parts of the town centre are in.

The work on the Forum was progressing very slowly at the best of times but now it seems to have come to a complete halt and what remains of the unfinished

work is not attractive.

We also have the old problem that when it rains, part of the Forum still floods, as I found out recently.

There's nothing worse than finding that you're wading through a very large volume of water, which is not particularly visible.

I had expected that the plan would have been to sort out the drainage of water from the Forum at the same time as sorting out the other problems. Clearly, I was wrong. Will we ever get it right?

In addition, we now have major work in progress on the steps leading down

from the Forum into the Sainsbury's car park.

The steps are currently inaccessible whilst the work is in progress. Let's hope that this essential work is soon completed.

On top of all this, we have problems in the Carfax, where work with respect to an electricity cable seems to have come to a grinding halt.

Visitors to the town have the great pleasure of seeing a partly repaired excavation surrounded by unsightly fencing. It also doesn't present a very attractive entrance into the Swan Walk shopping centre.

One has to wonder what the surface will eventually

look like. Will the stone slabs be replaced with matching replacement slabs, if necessary, or will we be left with yet another concrete surface?

We all reminded how unsightly inappropriate repairs can be every time we walk down West Walk into the Forum.

And let's not forget Causeway, where the road surface is in a terrible condition and badly in need of repair, hardly adding to the attractiveness of the area.

On top of this, we have the major risk of slipping during wet weather on the pavement on the left hand side of the road leading down to St

Mary's Church.

We need to get Horsham back into a proper condition, so that we can be proud of what we have to offer and we can show visitors to the town what an attractive place Horsham is to either visit or indeed to live in.

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 our website www.horshamsociety.org or telephone 01403 261640.