



Horsham  
District  
Council



# Green Space Strategy 2013 - 2023








Working together to provide  
vibrant green spaces for all

Serving our  
& towns  
& villages

Approved November 2013

Cover photo: Horsham Park

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# Green Space Strategy 2013 - 2023

## Executive Summary

Great parks, countryside and green street scenes make for a better quality of life. A network of well designed and cared for open spaces adds to the character of places where we want to live, work, play and visit. Green spaces also provide the vital green infrastructure that enables us to deal with floods or mitigate and adapt to climate change whilst providing wildlife habitats, amenity value, recreational value, sporting facilities and beautiful parks.

*Grey infrastructure allows us to live in villages, towns and cities.  
Green infrastructure allows us to live on planet earth.*

The purpose of this Green Space Strategy is to inform all interested parties of the value of green space and green street scenes and the standards we aspire to in the Horsham District. On an operational level, the strategy provides a focus for the management and continued improvement of green spaces in the Horsham District. The strategy focuses on publicly accessible areas which are owned and maintained by Horsham District Council.



Storrington Mill Pond

## Vision

To provide, protect and enhance a publicly accessible network of diverse and quality green spaces that meet the need of our community.

## Aims

To achieve the vision for Horsham District's green space, the following aims have been identified:



Aim 1 Provide and maintain quality green spaces in appropriate locations, which are protected for future generations.



Aim 2 Ensure our green spaces are clean, safe and non-threatening.



Aim 3 Encourage local people to use our green spaces to benefit their health and well being.



Aim 4 Maximise the income potential of our green space assets.



Aim 5 Support, encourage and mentor voluntary groups.



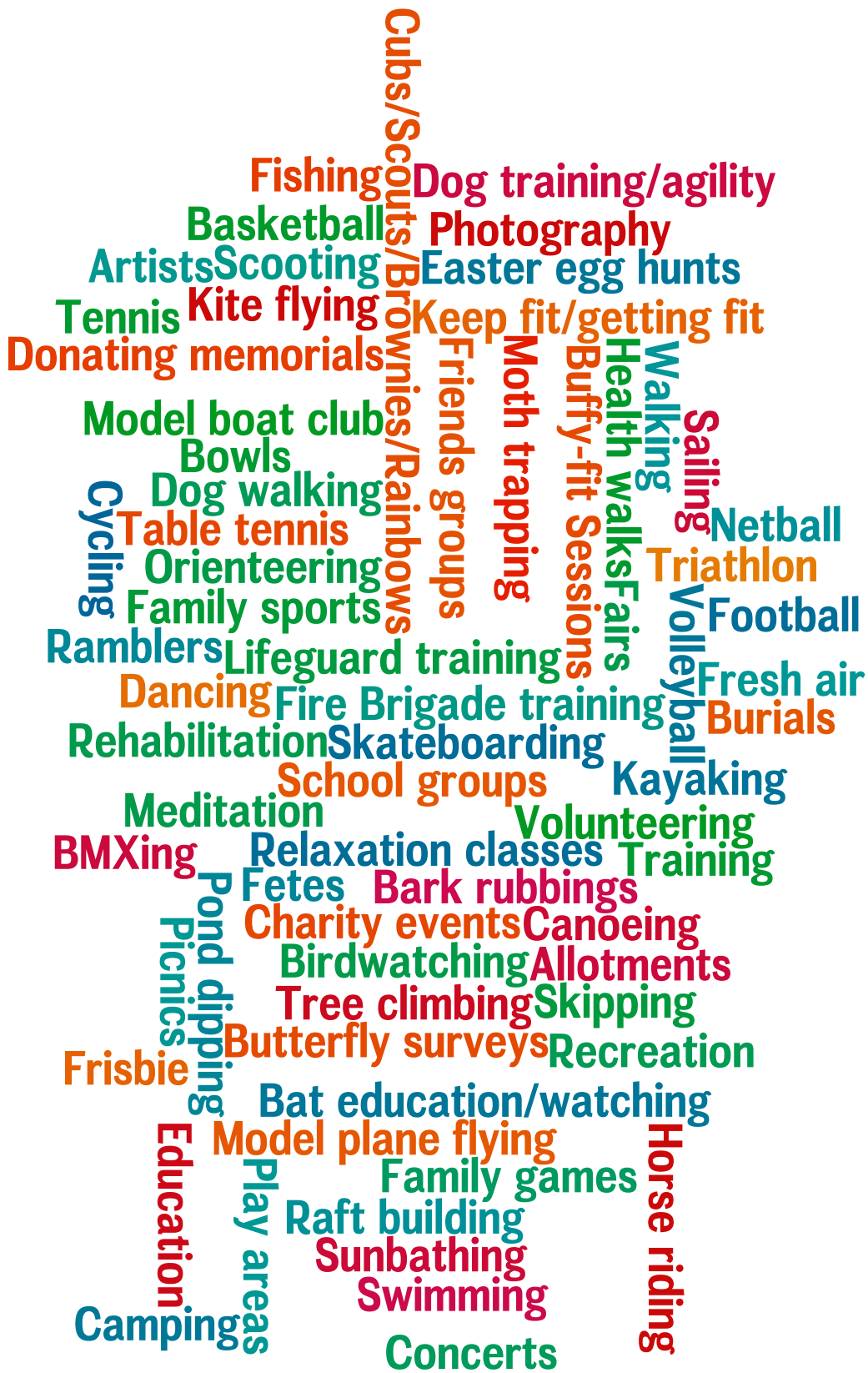
Aim 6 Enhance the wildlife conservation value of our green spaces.



Aim 7 Deliver excellent value and high performance while keeping the customer at the heart of what we do.

These aims will be achieved through the associated objectives and actions contained within the action plan. The strategy and action plan will be reviewed every 4 years.

Who is our customer / what are our open spaces used for?



Plus many more . . .

## Introduction

Green space is a vital part of our day-to-day lives, whether we spend time in it, pass through it or simply view it from a distance. The extent to which it impacts our lives can be seen in the findings of a national survey which revealed that 91% of people believe that public parks and open spaces improve their quality of life (CABE, 2004 *'Public Attitudes to Architecture and Public Space.'*)

Although designated as a discretionary service (i.e. not legally required), there is no doubt that green space forms a vital part of local authority service provision, offering a broad and varied range of facilities and opportunities to all its residents and visitors. It is also a highly visible service, where success is immediately apparent but failures can provoke strong and impassioned negative reactions from its users. This level of attachment and importance within people's lives is unsurprising given the range of benefits green spaces can offer.

A significant body of research identifies that the benefits of providing well managed green spaces that promote diverse usage and high ecological value are widespread.

## The benefits of green space are clear to see

### Parks produce pounds

Parks and green space can **retain and attract business investment, encourage customers to visit, engender a sense of employee well-being, attract tourists and positively affect house prices.** It is therefore no surprise that green spaces form a vital element of regeneration strategies.



Nordic walking in Horsham Park

## The strategy in context

*It has been estimated that UK residents make 3-4 billion recreational visits to green spaces each year and that these visits generate up to £3 billion to local economies.*

*Natural green spaces are highly prized (a 2003 study showed that there were about 39 million visitor days per annum to the South Downs and these visitors spent £333 million).*

*Proximity to green spaces has a direct impact on a number of factors such as quality of life and house prices. Southwater Country Park is one site which is regularly used by estate agents in their marketing material.*

### Fun and fitness outdoors

Providing opportunities for outdoor activity including **free and inclusive sports facilities increases health levels and reduces obesity**. Green spaces also help to **maintain good mental health**. They reduce stress by encouraging relaxation through interaction with the natural environment, physical activity and social interaction.

*Horsham has over 350 Parks and Countryside volunteers. One of the District's largest groups is Horsham Green Gym whose volunteers work across many different sites.*

*Research shows that 100% of participants interviewed during the National Evaluation by Oxford Brookes University agree that taking part in the Green Gym has benefited their mental health, boosting self-esteem and confidence through learning new skills and completing new tasks.*

*Green Gym provides moderate physical activity: People who are regularly active at this level are 50% less likely to suffer from a heart attack or stroke than inactive people.*

### Kids learn best outside

Parks and green space offer a space for play, whether formal or informal, providing the best setting for developing social, physical and cognitive skills. They also offer one of the few locations available to older children where they can socialise, let off steam and relax. Green space also provides us with learning opportunities about a vast range of subjects, and continues to do so throughout our lives.



*Sand play in Horsham Park*

*Through the Horsham District Play Strategy, Horsham District Council is committed to sustaining and improving high value play opportunities for all children.*

*Horsham Park is the District's flagship play area which has won national recognition with regard to its design and was voted in 2011 by Netmums as their favourite free place to go in West Sussex.*

*Other innovative play opportunities include the woodland based adventure play area at Beech Road, the teenage active play zone at the Needles (Blackbridge Lane) and the junior play area at Littlehaven Lane.*



## Helping people feel safe

Well designed spaces can reduce the fear of crime, increasing usage and enabling everyone to make the most of them. Through increased natural surveillance this can have wider knock-on effects, creating safer neighbourhoods.

*Regeneration projects at Pondtail Recreation Ground, Victory Road Recreation Ground and New Street Garden have demonstrated that redesigning public open space directly relates to increased numbers of people using these spaces, a lower fear of crime and a reduction in costs of repairs due to vandalism.*

## Parks connect people

Parks and green spaces are open to all, providing opportunities for social interaction, community activity and cultural celebrations. Well used spaces can increase neighbourliness, promote local identity and develop a sense of place. Where communities get involved in local projects or schemes the relationships can be even stronger, fostering ownership and respect.



Horsham Park play area

*The Council supports the development of local friends groups and has successfully worked with many of them to help deliver aspirations such as improved lighting, new play areas, seating, gardens, fencing, drainage etc. The outcome has been improved community cohesion, reduction of issues on site, improved relationship with the Council and a sense of ownership on behalf of the residents.*

## Helping our district breathe

Green spaces provide the opportunity for walking and cycling, lessening reliance on cars and reducing traffic. They provide the green lungs of our towns and cities, absorb pollutants and process carbon dioxide. Green spaces encourage sustainable practices such as composting and locally-grown produce. They provide natural drainage systems to reduce flooding.

*Research shows that well managed mature woodlands, for example as found at Leechpool Woods in Horsham and Monkmead Woods in West Chiltington have the highest value in terms of climate regulation by 'locking up carbon.'*

*A significant number of the Horsham District's green spaces have flood attenuation benefits and furthermore balancing ponds to regulate the flow of storm water is a statutory requirement on new housing developments. These areas are often included within the green space provision. Many of our ponds on our green spaces act as a catchment area for storm water. Warnham Local Nature Reserve provides a catchment area for drainage water from a large surrounding area to the north of Horsham and its reed beds act as a natural filtration mechanism before water is discharged into the Red River and on into the River Arun.*

# The strategy in context

## Connecting people with nature

Parks and green spaces provide valuable natural habitats for all forms of wildlife, offer green links, protect biodiversity and give the chance for people to experience and appreciate nature.

*Natural populations of pollinating insects, particularly bees, have been in severe decline over the last 30 years. Traditionally managed areas of grassland such as Chesworth Farm are now increasingly rare. They have very high numbers of natural pollinators and can provide essential pools of these insects.*

See appendix 1 for more specific detail on how the Green Space Strategy fits within a national policy context.

The main purpose of the strategy is to

develop a strategic context to the planning and maintenance of green spaces and green street scene in the Horsham District. The implementation of the strategy will enable the Council to coordinate resources to increase the quality and use of green space, to help plan for the future and to ensure that the District's green spaces meet the needs of the local community.

The Green Space Strategy will link in to the Horsham District Green Infrastructure Strategy which is currently under preparation.

The strategy is a key policy document to be used in association with the Horsham District Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study to determine standards for the provision and quality of new green spaces.

The aims identified in the strategy have been developed through internal workshops and review of associated management plans, strategies and consultations - see appendix 1.



Tai Chi in Horsham Park

## Local context

### Horsham District Plan

The Green Space Strategy contributes to the priorities laid out in the Horsham District Plan as follows:

#### *Economic Development*

The strategy makes provision to aim for good quality green spaces to help local businesses attract and retain staff, to encourage visitor growth and to have a positive impact on land and property markets. (See Aim 1)

#### *Efficiency & Taxation*

The strategy contains methods for increasing income and demonstrates the levels of funding that can be achieved through external grants for green spaces and community facilities. (See Aim 4 & 7)

#### *Arts, Heritage & Leisure*

The strategy identifies key projects for improving visitor attractions which will help maintain Horsham District's reputation for providing good quality green spaces and leisure facilities to help to support our economy. (See Aim 4)

#### *Living, working communities*

The strategy aims to support the life of local communities by providing well designed, safe, and valuable green spaces to enable community cohesion. It also demonstrates a high level of community interaction through volunteering and seeks to develop this further. (See Aim 1, 2, 3 & 5)

#### *Environment*

The strategy identifies sustainable horticulture and projects to conserve natural habitats for future generations to enjoy. (See Aim 6 & 7)

#### *Safer & healthier communities*

The strategy makes provision for communities to engage with and use our green spaces in a variety of ways. (See Aim 2 & 3)



*Sandgate Park in Storrington*

## ASPIRE

The Green Space Strategy also contributes to the six strands of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy ASPIRE, which will determine how the Council addresses the significant budget challenges we face.

### Ambitions

The strategy demonstrates a desire to improve our service and provide best value. All members of the department have been involved in its creation and are committed to providing the very best green spaces within the resources available. (See Aim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7)

### Sharing

The strategy identifies opportunities for working in partnership when opportunities present themselves. We are currently working with partners to award a new grounds maintenance contract. It also encourages greater participation of volunteer groups to share in the care of our green spaces. (See Aim 6 & 7)

### Procuring & Redesign

The formation of the strategy and the merger of parks and countryside departments has provoked a review of the parks and countryside service. The strategy suggests the development of a new departmental structure to allow us to be more effective and efficient in our service delivery. This will identify the best use of skills from a combination of in house staff, contractors and volunteers. (See Aim 4, 5 & 7)

### Income

The strategy contains methods for increasing income, maximising the return of the green space assets held by the Council and demonstrates the levels of funding that can be achieved through external grants for green spaces and community facilities. (See Aim 4, 5 & 7)

### Economising

The strategy has identified the need to set modest and deliverable service standards. It promotes careful use of landscape design to minimise year by year maintenance costs. It promotes the sharing of plant and equipment across departmental teams wherever appropriate to minimise costs. It also identifies the need to carry out a review of in-house green waste disposal to make best use of waste products and avoid double handling. (See Aim 1 & 7)

A S P I R E

## Current provision

### The local area

The Horsham District is a large area that covers 205 square miles of varied countryside and attractive small towns and villages in the County of West Sussex. It is bordered in the north by Surrey, in the South by the distinctive shape of the South Downs, to the east by St Leonard's Forest and the High Weald, and to the West by the Arun Valley. The South Downs has now been designated as a National Park and the High Weald is identified as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The coast and the sea are just a few miles to the south of the District. It is a highly desirable place to live and work. Horsham is the main town and administrative centre of the area.

The villages of Billingshurst, Henfield, Pulborough, Steyning, Southwater and Storrington are important population centres and each has its own character and charm. There are many other attractive villages and hamlets within the 33 parishes in the area.

The rural aspect of much of the District provides challenges for some people. Lack of affordable and accessible public transport solutions in rural areas can be a problem for young people, people with disabilities and anyone without access to a car. This can contribute to inequalities in terms of access to leisure opportunities.



*Monkmead Wood in West Chiltington*

## 2011 census

Results from the 2011 census show there are circa 131,000 residents in the whole of the District. The following table provides a breakdown of the changing age profile of the Horsham District.

Age	2001*	2011 (Predicted)*	2011*
0-4	7,250	7,000	7,200
5-9	8,100	7,000	7,300
10-14	8,300	9,000	8,500
15-19	7,000	8,000	7,900
20-24	5,000	5,000	5,700
25-29	6,000	6,000	5,900
30-34	8,400	7,000	6,700
35-39	10,300	8,000	8,200
40-44	9,500	10,000	10,300
45-49	9,700	11,000	11,000
50-54	9,500	10,000	9,800
55-59	7,500	9,000	8,400
60-64	6,000	9,000	9,100
65-69	5,500	8,000	7,300
70-74	4,900	6,000	5,900
75-79	4,300	5,000	4,900
80-84	2,900	4,000	3,800
85-89	1,800	2,000	2,400
90+	1,000	1,000	1,400
All ages	123,100	132,000	131,300
Comparison with surrounding area			
West Sussex	753,612	808,000	806,900
South East	8,000,645	8,561,000	8,634,800
England & Wales	49,138,831	52,655,000	56,075,900

\* Figures round up to nearest hundred

Analysis of the census shows that there has been a clear reduction in the number of 30-40 year olds in the Horsham District since the 2001 census was conducted.

In 2001 the 30-34 age group made up approximately 7% of the population. This has reduced to 5.1% by 2011.

The percentage of 35-39 year olds has reduced even more, falling from approximately 8.4% in 2001 to 6.2% in 2011. A similar trend has been experienced across West Sussex and the South East, but to a lesser extent.

There has been an increase in the percentage of 60-64 year olds since 2001. Again a similar trend has been experienced across West Sussex & the South East.

The 2011 Census shows Horsham has 54,900 households. This is compared with 50,037 households in 2001.

## What we own

Horsham District Council owns and manages approx 400 hectares of green space across the District. This includes parks, recreation grounds, Country Park, nature reserves, woodlands, allotments, cemeteries and green corridors. See appendix 2 for a list of typologies and distribution across the District, as well as details of sites with special designations such as 'Sites of Nature Conservation Interest' (SNCI).

This strategy sets out the Council's objectives for managing existing green space which is under the ownership of Horsham District Council. There are a wide range of typologies which together contribute to Horsham District Council's Green Space portfolio.

### Lease arrangements with other organisations

The Council encourages local communities to take responsibility for their green spaces and ancillary facilities whenever appropriate. This means that the Council has a mix of different service delivery methods including directly managed sites, volunteer managed areas and sites which are leased to community organisations. These provide a public amenity without being a burden on the council tax payer. Details of the Council's lease arrangement with other organisations are included in appendix 2.

### The service we provide

Responsibility for Green Spaces and the green street scene across the District lies with a number of organisations.

In general, Horsham District Council maintains strategic green spaces across the District in addition to unparished parks, green spaces and recreation grounds.

Local Parish Councils and Housing Associations maintain green spaces in their local areas. There are a few green spaces maintained by management companies.

In general the management and maintenance of grass and trees on roadside verges is the responsibility of West Sussex County Council.



*Warnham Nature Reserve*

### Management proposal

The Council encourages the local management of green spaces wherever possible.

Parish Councils are generally best placed to adopt land which primarily serves the local community, and the opportunity to adopt such land should be given to the Parish Council in the first instance.

Horsham District Council will continue to adopt new public green spaces which have a strategic value i.e. will attract visitors from across the District and beyond, unless it specifically recommends that another body is better placed to manage the site. The District Council will not accept green spaces which do not fall into this criterion unless there is a compelling reason to do so.

If the District or Parish Council's decline to adopt new green spaces, Management Companies will be permitted to be formed where developments provide local green spaces purely of an incidental nature (i.e. only of value to local residents). The basis for setting up such companies will be determined by the Council's Development Control department and robust controls must be put in place as part of the S106 agreement.

### ■ IMPROVEMENT OF GREEN SPACES

Provision of quality green spaces and attractive landscapes is a key objective of the Council's work. Working with Planning colleagues in the development of new outdoor facilities as well as the ongoing maintenance and improvement of existing ones are all carried out with the aim of providing maximum value for the District's residents and visitors. Local community groups are consulted and encouraged to get involved with funding applications, the design process and then, as the project evolves, with activities such as planting and vegetation management.





*Hills Cemetery*

The green spaces and landscapes of the Horsham District provide for a range of uses to include organised sport, informal recreation, education and simply people's enjoyment of trees, horticulture, and the natural environment. Some sites, such as the flagship Horsham Park, offer the full range of these in one large open space while others are dedicated more specifically to recreation, landscape or wildlife. Likewise, Parks and Countryside staff work as a team, in recognition of the inseparability of these different functions while, at the same time, taking responsibility for their different roles.

#### ■ GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

The efficient maintenance of approximately 350 green spaces to quality standards is a vital requirement for the service. The service is procured through a variety of methods best suited for the work area. These include contractual arrangements, a small but flexible in-house team, volunteers and partnership

arrangements. The work is allocated between these groups to maximise efficiency and utilise the benefits of specialist skills, plant and equipment.

#### ■ CEMETERIES

The Council is responsible for operational cemeteries provision within the Horsham town area, primarily at Hills Cemetery but with a satellite site at Roffey. The Cemeteries service also covers the maintenance of four closed churchyards within the District. The Council recognises the need for providing a sensitive and responsive service and the importance of supporting bereaved families.

A dedicated team based at Hills Cemetery undertakes this work and manages the processes of burial plot purchase and interment arrangements. The cemetery sites are valued for their standards of maintenance, appearance and tranquillity, as well as their wildlife and heritage interest.



*Wildflower planting on roundabouts*



*Depot Road allotment site*



*Park House Garden in Horsham Park*



*Chesworth Farm*

### ■ TREE MANAGEMENT

Trees have an important role within communities, providing numerous aesthetic, social, environmental and health benefits. The care of these valuable assets is provided by the Parks and Countryside team. Opportunities are continually sought for new planting schemes, ensuring a lasting, sustainable tree cover throughout the District.

A specialist arboricultural (tree) officer ensures that the Council meets both its legal duty of care and the requirements of its insurers. Programmed inspections ensure that the tree stock is maintained in good health, but with a balanced and proportionate approach to tree safety and actionable nuisances. All remedial works are carried out by the Council's selected and fully vetted arboricultural contractor, responding to both routine and emergency requests. Tree safety is just one of the objectives that the department seeks to address since trees can often be a major cause of subsidence within the District. A pro-active approach to tree subsidence management has been adopted, putting the Council in a stronger position to defend any future claims.

### ■ LANDSCAPE AND HORTICULTURE

Shrubs, trees and perennials are used to create landscapes which harmonise with the local environments, contributing visually through their shapes, textures and colours as well as functionally, for purposes such as bank stabilisation, screening and sound reduction. Sustainability and ecology are important considerations in the design of these new plantings with species selected for their longevity, suitability to local conditions, cost of maintenance and their potential for attracting birds and pollinating insects.

### ■ ECOLOGY AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

The ecological management of all sites is a priority for the service. Key sites include a Country Park and a nature reserve as well as

other large areas of woodland, heathland and grassland for public access and education. Management of habitats and watercourses, monitoring of species and the provision of access routes and interpretation are all important aspects of this work which engages members of the community, bringing local nature into their lives. The Horsham Green Gym volunteers make an important contribution on these sites and special events are run by the Countryside Wardens for children and adults to get close to the local wildlife.

### ■ CHILDREN'S PLAY AREAS

The Council recognises the value that children's play has in the growing up process. Children learn to explore and exercise and become aware of themselves and others. The Horsham District's 57 play areas are maintained in safe condition through regular inspections and monitoring while opportunities are continually sought for updating equipment and creating new sites. Children's play is high on the team's agenda and the value of renewal with exciting new facilities is clearly recognised. This is a primary opportunity for community projects in which local residents and children work with Council staff to develop proposals and often apply for funding to achieve real tangible local gains.

### ■ SPORTS FACILITIES

The green spaces which the Council owns provide an ideal opportunity for the development of sporting opportunities which develop fitness, health and well-being. Sports facilities are provided by the Council within Horsham town's green spaces including a bowls green, football and cricket pitches, multi-sports courts, tennis courts, beach volleyball, outdoor table tennis and basketball goals (sports facilities in parished areas are generally managed by Parish Councils). The Council's preferred approach is to lease the land associated with sports facilities and delegate responsibility for the ongoing management and maintenance to the leasee.

### ■ GREEN SPACE INFRASTRUCTURE

In order to provide appropriate facilities; footpaths, bridges and lighting are required along with furniture such as litter bins, benches and signs. With nearly 400 sites, significant input is required in terms of product selection, installation and maintenance. The Park Rangers who look after this important infrastructure also perform the essential tasks of litter clearing throughout the green spaces and emptying bins.

### ■ ALLOTMENTS

Horsham District Council owns nine allotment sites within Horsham town (allotment sites in parished areas are generally the responsibility of Parish Councils). It is the Council's policy to encourage allotment societies to directly run and manage their individual sites.

### ■ COMMUNITY LIAISON

Liaison with our communities remains a central theme throughout the activities of the Parks and Countryside team, It is itself a specific function which underpins all of the others referred to above but which is also very much evident in its own right through activities such as public meetings and the running of user surveys. What we do is carried out entirely with the public in mind, providing quality green spaces for a high quality of life; places to run around, walk about, compete, relax, learn, play and enjoy the wonders of the natural environment.

### The value to local business and the local community

Horsham District's green spaces are a hub for communities and businesses too. The Community groups and businesses using green spaces have a vested interest in the quality and condition of the Park and are perceived by the public as an extra amenity alongside those financed by the Council. The following list shows some of the organisations that benefit from using the district's green spaces. The District Council also benefits from the income received by many of these organisations - see section 4 for further details.

#### Businesses generating employment and/or income:

##### Health

North Sussex Soccer Academy  
Dog training  
Willson Fitness  
Fit Mums  
Southwater Country Park Watersports

##### Children's Activities

Wildlife Explorers (organised in partnership with Royal Society for the Protection of Birds)

##### Cafes and restaurants

Conservatory Café  
Warnham Local Nature Reserve Café  
Southwater Country Park Café  
Ice cream van concessions

##### Events

Fun Fair  
Circus  
Weddings  
Countryside events (organised in partnership with Friends of Warnham Local Nature Reserve and Sussex Wildlife Trust)

##### Children's Nurseries

Horsham Nursery School  
Little Monkeys Nursery

##### Maintenance contractors

Thompson Estate Maintenance - Alfold, Nr Cranleigh  
Girlforce - Maplehurst  
Cowfold Fencing - Cowfold,  
AC Farley - Horsham  
SR Brierley Landscape Services Ltd - Horsham  
Playsafe Playgrounds Ltd - Midhurst  
EJ Services - Alton, Hants  
9C Ramps - Horsham  
3B Ramps - Crawley  
Keith Luxford - Horsham  
Paul Mort - Small Dole  
Bedford Signs - Horsham  
Rob Jochimsen - Horsham  
Gary Collier - Billingshurst





Volunteers working in the maze in Horsham Park

**Community activities attracting people to green spaces and attracting income:**

**Conservation groups**

- Horsham Green Gym
- Hills Farm Conservation Group
- Boldings Brook Conservation Volunteers
- Sandgate Park Conservation Society
- Monkmead Volunteer Group
- Tanbridge Residents Improve The Arun River
- Henfield Conservation Volunteers
- Nuthatch Way Conservation Group
- Brick Kiln Pond Conservation Group
- Storrington Conservation Group
- Gatwick Greenspace Partnership
- Earles Meadow Conservation Group

**Friends groups**

- Friends of Meadowside
- Friends of New Street Garden
- Friends of Bennetts Field
- Friends of Victory Road Recreation Ground
- Friends of Chesworth Farm
- Friends of Warnham Local Nature Reserve
- Companions of Manor Fields

**Other Volunteers**

- Horsham in Bloom
- Strawford Centre
- Alder Copse Volunteers
- North Horsham Volunteers

**Sports groups**

- Trinity Cricket Club
- Horsham Olympic Football Club

- Roffey Football Club
- Healthy Walks
- Marlow Sports
- Southdowns Orienteers
- Triathlon Groups
- Football pitch hire
- Southwater Angling Society
- SCP Watersports groups:
  - 8x triathlon groups
  - 5x other Watersports groups

**Church run community days**

- Kings Church
- Kingdom Faith Church
- Brighton Road Baptist Church

**Schools**

- St Peters School, Cowfold
- North Holmes School
- Millais School
- 12x schools visiting WNR

**Charity events**

- Sport relief mile
- St Catherine's Midnight Walk
- Race for life
- St Catherine's Santa Run

**Others**

- Skate jam
- BBC Live'n Deadly Roadshow



ParkFest celebrations  
in Horsham Park

## Strategy

### Vision

To provide, protect and enhance a publicly accessible network of diverse and quality green spaces that meet the need of our community.

To achieve the vision for Horsham District's green space, the following aims have been identified:



Aim 1 Provide and maintain quality green spaces in appropriate locations, which are protected for future generations.



Aim 2 Ensure our green spaces are clean, safe and non-threatening.



Aim 3 Encourage local people to use our green spaces to benefit their health and well being..



Aim 4 Maximise the income potential of our green space assets.



Aim 5 Support, encourage and mentor voluntary groups.



Aim 6 Enhance the wildlife conservation value of our green spaces.



Aim 7 Deliver excellent value and high performance while keeping the customer at the heart of what we do.

These aims will be achieved through the associated objectives detailed below and actions contained within the Action Plan.

**Note:** Objectives marked with £ indicate a financial implication.



QUALITY



SAFETY



USAGE



INCOME



VOLUNTEERING



CONSERVATION



PERFORMANCE

## AIM 1: Provide and maintain quality green spaces in appropriate locations, which are protected for future generations

### PRINCIPLES

Green Infrastructure plays a key role in place-shaping. Well designed and accessible public amenity spaces can help preserve the cultural heritage of an area. They can create a sense of place with which the local population can feel proud and identify with, fostering a sense of community and belonging and preserve our quality of life. Green infrastructure can also serve as a green lung, a wildlife corridor to allow access to nature. It can provide a safe route to work and landscape buffers create attractive, vibrant and liveable communities.

Good design of public space means creating spaces which people want to use, can easily access, spend time in and enjoy. Above all good design takes advantage of the opportunity to create environments that are truly inspirational for existing and future generations of all abilities.

A clean, safe, attractive and well maintained environment attracts visitors to our District, which in turn boosts our economy.

Creatively designed urban landscapes, including tree, shrub and ornamental planting within the street environment can have a significant effect by 'softening' the appearance of an area and creating a pleasant ambience for shoppers and visitors. The 'green' experience for shoppers should not be undervalued. It plays a major role in contributing to 'Time Well Spent' in Horsham.

Well connected green environments have been shown to attract a skilled and mobile workforce which will again benefit the local economy. A substantial provision of green

infrastructure will also support jobs in tourism, the green economy (e.g. land management) and agriculture.

Good access to quality green space can help people of all ages stay healthy in body and mind. The Horsham District has an ageing population so it is important to ensure the needs of older people are considered carefully.

Children and young people need space away from their homes where they can socialise and spend time with their peers. The interactions that take place in public space provide a rich education for children of the world around them and the people who live in it. Parks, local greens, recreation grounds, incidental green space and trees provide space for children to meet and play, to establish a world for themselves independent of their parents and to explore the natural environment.

In addition to the need of providing green spaces for primarily recreational use, there is also an ongoing requirement for the provision of land for future burial requirements in the unparished areas of the Horsham District. In parished areas this responsibility falls to the relevant Parish Council.

Green space standards are measured in a number of different ways including qualitative, quantitative and accessibility. See appendix 3 for details of applicable standards.



Meadowside play area in Storrington





QUALITY



SAFETY



USAGE



INCOME



VOLUNTEERING



CONSERVATION



PERFORMANCE

### *Horsham ranked fifth best place to live in 2012*

*Experian carried out a recent analysis and in an overall ranking the Horsham District came fifth out of 324 local authority areas in the Best Places to Live category.*

### *National award winner - Britain in Bloom*

*Horsham in Bloom, an independent charity, was formed in 1995 and entered Horsham Town into the South East in Bloom competition in 1996 for the first time. The town competed against other communities in the region of the same approximate size and has consistently gained 'Gold' awards since 1997. In 2007, Horsham was nationally awarded both First Place and Gold Award in the Britain in Bloom Finals.*

*Since 2010, Horsham has only entered aspects of the town to be judged, such as the town centre, Warnham Nature Reserve and the Human Nature Garden. A number of other villages in the District also make entries to the Competition, such as Bramber, Steyning and Storrington.*



*Beech Glade adventure play area in Horsham*



*Carfax spring bedding*



*West Street hanging baskets*



*Hills Cemetery*



QUALITY



SAFETY



USAGE



INCOME



VOLUNTEERING



CONSERVATION



PERFORMANCE

### **Horsham District Residents give our services top marks**

The Horsham District Resident Survey 2011 highlighted that

- ☺ Horsham's parks and gardens are viewed by many residents as one of its most important assets.
- ☺ Parks and open spaces and keeping land free of litter were the best rated council services.
- ☺ Parks and open spaces and access to nature are thought to be one of the most important things for making somewhere a good place to live

### **Green flag award winner**

Horsham Park achieved a Green Flag Award in 2009 <http://greenflag.keeptobritaintidy.org/> While it is considered by the Council that the Park continues to meet these standards, budget pressures have precluded subsequent re-applications.

### **Leader in play space design and innovation**

Play England produced a "Design for Play" which uses Horsham Park play area and maze as prime examples of innovative play design, excellent play value and sensible approaches to safety and maintenance. The guide is published nationally and used by other authorities to assist in play design for play areas, streetscape and home zones.



Horsham Park skate jam



QUALITY



SAFETY



USAGE



INCOME



VOLUNTEERING



CONSERVATION



PERFORMANCE

## Objectives & Actions

### 1.1 Ensure sites have a documented and scheduled maintenance standard which is adhered to across all areas.

- Maintain areas to comply with the Grounds Maintenance Standards.
- Maintain areas using the best combination of in-house staffing, contractors and volunteers.
- Develop a formalised grounds maintenance inspection schedule.
- Develop an ongoing programme of vegetation control to ensure landscape areas do not lose their appeal and character. All works must be carried out in accordance with the relevant legislation (listed in Appendix 1) to protect wildlife and conserve biodiversity. Such works can often be carried out with the assistance of volunteer/community groups.
- Develop a more formalised programme for inspection, repairs and replacement of infrastructure such as footpaths, steps, painting, seat replacement, bins, small landscape enhancements and fencing.
- Ensure sites are measured against disability access criteria and develop a programme of improvements where necessary.

### 1.2 Develop a strategic approach to green space improvement.

- Carry out consultations on a regular basis to understand levels of customer satisfaction.
- Review the findings of the latest Horsham District Council Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation Study 2012 (previously PPG17) and develop a plan to address deficiencies in provision.
- Consideration should be given to protecting strategic green open spaces which provide vital green lungs and contribute to the quality of life synonymous with the Horsham District. This will be addressed in the Council's forthcoming Green Infrastructure Strategy.
- Measure key sites against the Green Flag standard to ensure they meet the agreed quantitative, qualitative and accessibility standards. Implement this

on a rotating basis and publicise any Green Flag achievements. (Suggested rotation - Horsham Park, Warnham Local Nature Reserve, Southwater Country Park, Horsham Riverside Walk, Monkmead Wood)

- Review existing and new open spaces on a regular basis to ensure older people and people with disabilities are able to easily access and use facilities.
- Train staff to Green Flag standards to allow internal measurement of quality standards for all appropriate sites.
- £ Develop an infrastructure repairs and small landscape enhancement programme. See funding table ref 1a.
- Develop an ongoing programme of community landscape projects to regenerate public areas and implement, subject to assistance from volunteer/community groups to raise the funds.
- £ Develop a tree planting strategy to ensure that Horsham District Council's tree stock has a range of tree maturity and variety and continues to provide opportunities for improved visual amenity, the provision of shade and continued tree cover. See funding table ref 1b.
- Promote the memorial tree scheme as a means of enhancing the Council's tree stock.
- Ensure we have early involvement in planning applications to influence the creative design of urban landscapes.
- Contribute to the Horsham Town Centre enhancement project to ensure that a quality green street scene is provided which adds to the visitor experience (West Street and Bishopric improvements).
- Develop costed plans for the decaying frontage to Roffey Cemetery, including replacement fencing and gates along with improved landscaping and identify potential funding sources.

### 1.3 Carefully manage the provision and acquisition of new green spaces by having early involvement in strategic planning / development control processes.

- Formalise interaction with planning officers to ensure early inclusion in outline planning and planning applications.



QUALITY



SAFETY



USAGE



INCOME



VOLUNTEERING



CONSERVATION



PERFORMANCE

- Work with the Strategic Planning Team to develop a strategic approach to identifying needs and projects across the District, which will benefit from Community Infrastructure Levy Contributions. Maintain an ongoing programme of priority works required on Council Green Spaces which is reviewed by the Parks and Countryside Advisory Group on an annual basis and approved by the Cabinet Member.
- Ensure the Horsham District Council Open Spaces Sport and Recreation Study contains sufficient detail regarding the quality and size requirements for new green space. Particular reference should be made to distance from nearest dwellings to enable developers to have early insight into green space requirements.
- Support the Planning department in the development of a Supplementary Planning Document which clearly identifies quantity, quality and accessibility standards for green space across the District. The standards will cover the provision of amenity space, natural space, parks, recreation grounds, allotments, sports, play and youth and will be led by national guidelines such as Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play by Fields in Trust and the Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard by Natural England as well as others mentioned in Appendix 3.

- Work with the Strategic Planning Team to develop a longer term approach for the future provision of a cemetery site. This is required to take the place of Hills Cemetery when it reaches capacity in approximately 2040. There is a need for it to be located in relative proximity to Horsham Town. The size of the area should be planned to accommodate use for the long term (i.e. 100 -150 years). It is anticipated that the area would fully meet growing demands for allotment use in the medium term, provided that the location and ground conditions are suitable.
- Ensure that new developments retain sufficient green corridors to moderate the effect of habitat fragmentation, whilst maximising opportunities as sustainable transport corridors ie. greenways/cycle routes.

**1.4 Provide creatively designed green spaces which are accessible and support positive community cohesion whilst delivering innovative and diverse landscapes. Ensure that schemes are well designed to ensure cost effective cost effective maintenance arrangements.**

- Investigate the need for a more detailed design specification for all green spaces which could be used internally and by developers.

## Policy Statement

### *Importance of buffering between active green space and dwellings*

*The Horsham District Council Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation Study should make a number of recommendations regarding quality of green spaces and set them out under six headings – general characteristics, minimum size requirements, accessibility, planting and biodiversity, facilities and features, management and maintenance.*

*These standards must be referred to when considering green space provision within new developments. It will be essential to ensure that the distance standards between play areas/youth activity areas and the nearest dwelling are fully complied with. Compliance to this standard will be necessary to support any future planning application. This can and has had a serious impact on quality of life of local neighbours as well as an impact on the level of play value that can be achieved in a space.*



QUALITY



SAFETY



USAGE



INCOME



VOLUNTEERING



CONSERVATION



PERFORMANCE

### 1.5 Provide well maintained, high value facilities.

- Work with Horsham District Council Property Services to develop a formalised service level agreement for the maintenance and improvement of buildings, walls and lighting within green spaces.
- Develop an improvement plan for changing rooms which are currently identified as in poor condition.
- Champion the provision of inspiring play facilities with high play value in appropriate locations throughout the Horsham District.

- Review the Horsham District Play Strategy and revise for the next five years.
- Ensure there is a programme for renewal of Horsham District Council owned and managed children’s play areas and sports facilities such as tennis courts and football pitches and seek funding on an annual basis for such refurbishment work. Refer to funding table ref 1c&d.

### Financial implications

This funding table only identifies major parks & countryside projects.

Ref	Site	Action	Total cost	Year ending	Existing revenue	New revenue bid	New HDC capital bid	Existing Section 106/CIL	New section 106	New external grant bid
Provide well placed high quality green spaces and protect for future generations										
1a	District wide	Infrastructure repairs programme and small landscape enhancements	£25,000	Annual	£25,000					
1b	District wide	Tree planting	£4,000	Annual	£2,000					£2,000
1c	Horsham Town	Ball court surfacing and fencing	£20,000	Every 4 years			£20,000			
1d	Horsham Town	Sports pitch maintenance	£10,000	Annual	£10,000					
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>£59,000</b>		<b>£37,000</b>		<b>£20,000</b>			<b>£2,000</b>



Grey Heron (Photo courtesy Stephen Chadd)



**HORSHAM SKATEPARK JAM 2012**  
Sunday 19th August 2012  
BMX Skateboard (New) City Entry Gate  
Gate 19:00 - 20:00  
Gate 20:00 - 21:00  
Gate 21:00 - 22:00  
Gate 22:00 - 23:00  
Gate 23:00 - 24:00

Keep Dist.  
Rallyhoop  
VPROG  
EAD  
SIBOTBMX.com

Horsham Park skate jam



QUALITY



SAFETY



USAGE



INCOME



VOLUNTEERING



CONSERVATION



PERFORMANCE

## AIM 2: Ensure our green spaces are clean, safe and non-threatening

### PRINCIPLES

It is the Council's legal responsibility to manage its land in a way that protects users from harm or accident. Both Common Law and Statute Law relating to public safety have a significant impact on the way the Council needs to manage its green spaces.

The Council has a greater duty of care when children could be at risk. There is a higher risk of claims for negligence and a greater reputational risk involved in the provision and management of children's playgrounds.

Ensuring that all children and young people have access to stimulating and challenging play environments where they can take acceptable levels of risk, but where they are not exposed to unacceptable risks of death or serious injury is very important. Risk taking is an essential feature of play; children and young people both need and want to take risks in order to explore limits and develop their capabilities.

In addition to the Council fulfilling its responsibilities, a reduced level of accidents has the benefit of reducing litigation and liability on the part of the Council. There are a number of ways in which accidents in public open spaces can be reduced. These include good design, consultation with users and efficient maintenance, renewals and consistent inspection methods.

Large trees with high water demand on the Horsham District's shrinkable clay soils have the potential to cause tree related subsidence. If trees are growing on Horsham District Council owned green spaces close to boundaries, their roots may detrimentally impact on neighbouring properties. The

Council has a duty of care to take reasonable steps to prevent tree related subsidence.

The nature of the work involved in maintaining green spaces means that operations include working at height, working with sharp and powerful tools and the occasional use of pesticides. A high standard of Health and Safety in the workplace is essential. In the UK, the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 requires that an employer must ensure reasonable standards of health, safety and welfare at work for its employees and for all other people who might be affected by the employer's activities.

Public spaces are a barometer of a community. As human beings we respond positively and instinctively to places that are welcoming. We want to spend time - and money - in such a community. The quality of public spaces affects all of us wherever we live and work. High quality sites can result in a lower fear of crime and reduced anti-social behaviour. Local ownership of green spaces by friends groups also has a direct impact on reducing levels of anti-social behaviour.



*Wildflower planting on roundabouts*



QUALITY



SAFETY



USAGE



INCOME



VOLUNTEERING



CONSERVATION



PERFORMANCE

## OBJECTIVES

### Management proposal

The Council currently owns and manages 57 play areas. The Council is committed to ensuring that all of its play areas meet its own quality, play value, accessibility and safety standards. An equipment replacement programme has been developed with resources proposed to come from a combination of existing Section 106 funds, new Community Infrastructure Levy contributions and external grants in addition to an unavoidable requirement for an annual capital funds contribution.

The Council will seek to identify funding to replace four play areas a year which would result in all play areas being replaced every 15 years. This should be implemented alongside the rationalisation programme, which seeks to reduce the number of play areas by removing small low value play areas and focusing on improving larger neighbourhood play areas.

Key priorities for improvement are Southwater Country Park, Roffey Recreation Ground and North Horsham junior play areas. Opportunities for passing responsibility for local play areas over to the Parish Council should be explored where appropriate.



*Cook Road play area in North Horsham*

### 2.1 Ensure sites are maintained in a clean condition.

- Ensure all high amenity sites are visited fortnightly for litter picking and bin emptying and more regularly for more popular sites.
- Address reports of issues of littering within a period of two working days
- Address reports of broken glass and dog excrement within a period of one working day.
- Escalate reports of graffiti to cleansing team within one working day.
- Implement a programme for the cleaning of algae from park infrastructure such as signs, bins, benches and play equipment.
- Treat moss, which causes slipperiness on hard surfaces in particular play areas and sports surfaces on an annual basis.
- Ensure changing facilities are regularly cleaned.





QUALITY



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USAGE



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VOLUNTEERING



CONSERVATION



PERFORMANCE

## 2.2 Reduce the fear of crime by involving people.

- Support investigations into the use of mobile phone customer reporting applications.
- Develop a plan for the provision of volunteer rangers / wardens to carry out a community engagement and safety role at key sites, with support from the Community Engagement Warden (see page 49)
- Ensure all staff and directly appointed volunteers working on our green spaces are clearly identified with a corporate style of clothing and are subject to appropriate checks eg. CRB.
- Ensure major contractors are clearly identified as carrying out work on behalf of Horsham District Council.
- Utilise signage to encourage local people to report issues relating to anti-social behaviour such as vandalism, intimidating groups, littering and dog fouling.
- Encourage volunteer groups to adopt sites, especially in residential areas, to take ownership of their local green space and get involved with physical tasks with backing from Parks & Countryside providing tools, equipment and removal of waste materials.

- Encourage a varied programme of events to populate our green spaces and make them feel safe - organisers to include local volunteer groups, charities and church groups as well as Council staff.
- Plan ahead and liaise with community safety colleagues for times of the year when there is likely to be more of a problem with anti-social behaviour i.e. hot weather, school leavers, bonfire night.
- Engage with local police and district wardens to help patrol our green spaces at strategic times.
- Ensure staff, volunteers and contractors who come into contact with children and vulnerable adults meet the requirements of the safeguarding policy.

## 2.3 Manage the conflicting requirements of safety with issues of landscape character, urbanisation and the protection of the natural environment.

- Reduce the fear of crime through improved design.
- Ensure designs do not include narrow 'corridor' areas of landscape.



North Street ribbon planting



QUALITY



SAFETY



USAGE



INCOME



VOLUNTEERING



CONSERVATION



PERFORMANCE



Horsham Park table tennis

- Ensure vistas are kept clear by implementing a programme of vegetation control with a particular focus on avoiding low branches and high hedges.
- Where appropriate ensure public landscapes are overlooked by neighbouring properties to provide a sense of safety and wellbeing.
- Work with colleagues to ensure CCTV cameras are placed in locations which are not obstructed by existing or future vegetation growth.
- Consider what lighting is appropriate when designing new areas to retain a perception of safety.
- Clearly publicise the key byelaws at our sites.

#### 2.4 Provide diversionary activities for young people to give positive, alternative choices.

- Seek to extend the over-subscribed multi-sports court in Horsham Park
- Ensure there is a regular programme for renewal of Horsham District Council owned and managed teen facilities such as skate

parks and ramps, open access ball courts, table tennis and volley ball courts. Refer to funding table ref 2a & b.

- Regularly review the level of provision of teen and sports facilities with Horsham District Council sports development officers.

#### 2.5 Address anti-social behaviour.

- Don't accept on-going anti-social behaviour issues in green spaces.
- Escalate ongoing issues regarding anti-social behaviour to Community Safety team.
- Run an annual anti-litter campaign to stress the issues surrounding litter.

#### 2.6 Reduce the possibility of accidents on green spaces by carrying out regular recorded inspections.

- Standardise on a well supported, efficient, sustainable electronic inspection system which enables mobile reporting and rapid response to issues subject to funding.



QUALITY



SAFETY



USAGE



INCOME



VOLUNTEERING



CONSERVATION



PERFORMANCE

- Ensure trees are inspected on a regular rolling programme and maintained in a healthy condition. Incorporate all Countryside trees and woodland areas into the Council's tree management system.
- Ensure all children's play areas are inspected at least once every fortnight but more often if it is a very popular play space.
- Ensure grave memorials are inspected at least every 5 years and results are acted upon.
- Carry out major site inspections every 9 months
- Ensure there is a process in place for checking fences, walls, park infrastructure over 1.5m high, benches and hanging basket supports.

### 2.7 Reduce the possibility of accidents on green spaces by completing risk assessments.

- Ensure there is a risk assessment for each key green space site and review whenever major changes occur.
- Ensure there is a generic risk assessment for all remaining green spaces.

### 2.8 Reduce the possibility of accidents on green spaces by proactively managing a renewals programme.

- Address health & safety issues on Horsham District Council owned and managed play areas and commit to appropriate levels of funding. The Council will proactively seek opportunities for external funding for such projects. Refer to funding table ref 2c.
- Ensure that the findings of routine inspections are actioned in a timely way.

### 2.9 Reduce the possibility of accidents to our own staff, contractors, volunteers and visitors by carrying out safe working practices.

- Continue the work of the Greenspace Health & Safety working group, to also involve operatives and contractors.
- Ensure all equipment is maintained to a safe standard.
- All powered and safety related equipment shall be serviced by trained personnel and a service record maintained.
- Complete and regularly review risk assessments, method statements and procedures for all operational works on Parks and Countryside sites.

### 2.10 Reduce risk of future tree-related subsidence claims.

- Establish which sites and the number of trees which may pose a risk.
- Proactively carry out a phased programme of works to prune high risk trees and reduce water demand.



Sectionally felling a tree in Monkmead Wood



*Victory Recreation Ground play area*



## Friends Group transform Victory Recreation Ground

Victory Recreation Ground is a significant park in the Trafalgar area of Horsham. Around 2004, local residents were being disturbed by anti-social behaviour in the area (vandalism, drug taking, noise at night, poor lighting, dog training in play area) and were being deterred from using the park.

With the help of Horsham in Bloom, local residents set up a friends group called FREC and contacted Horsham District Council to see if we could help. The Parks team mobilised their resources and liaised with all local users and the local police to come up with a project to address these issues. The Parks team helped FREC to successfully apply for an external grant from Biffaward and Horsham District Council provided match funding along with contributions from Horsham in Bloom and the Neighbourhood Forum. The play area was relocated away from houses and new equipment for a wide age range was provided. Ball stop fencing and dense trees were removed. Clear signage was provided. Community notice boards were installed. A new open plan seating area was installed with a mosaic created by the local infant school, and new lighting columns were installed. Re-surfaced paths and re-siting of the Basketball goal with low sound impact surface made a great improvement. A new portable football goal was provided.

Now, Victory Recreation Ground has a really positive atmosphere, residents spend time in the recreation ground, young people get on with older people and rubbish and vandalism has reduced substantially.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This table only identifies major parks and countryside projects.

Ref	Site	Action	Total cost	Annual Bid	Existing revenue	New revenue bid	New HDC capital bid	Existing Section 106/CIL	New section 106	New external grant bid
Ensure green spaces are clean, safe and non-threatening										
2a	Horsham Park	Replace 2 skate ramps	£12,000	Mar-15		£12,000				
2b	Horsham Park	Long term upgrade of skate park	£100,000	Mar-22			£50,000		£50,000	
2c	District Wide	Address health & safety issues on play areas*	£200,000	Annual bid	£15,000	£60,000		£50,000	£50,000	£25,000
TOTALS			£312,000		£15,000	£72,000	£50,000	£50,000	£100,000	£25,000

\* A capital bid of £60k has been approved for 2013/14 to address urgent replacement of play equipment.



QUALITY



SAFETY



USAGE



INCOME



VOLUNTEERING



CONSERVATION



PERFORMANCE

## AIM 3 - Encourage local people to use our green spaces to benefit their health and well being

### PRINCIPLES

People need to feel welcomed into a green space. The overall impression should be positive and inviting.

Green spaces have long been recognised as having potential for education and outdoor learning - not just as places where youngsters can learn about the environment, but as outdoor classrooms delivering a full range of curricular needs. The use of ANGSt (Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard) to ensure that there is a sufficient supply of local accessible green spaces can ensure that such opportunities are available to all communities. Research shows that children retain more information if they have been taught outside, and in Denmark there is a network of outside learning spaces integrated into the schools

system. Utilising green spaces for learning is yet another way of making the case for accessible greenspace.

Socially, green infrastructure can improve quality of life by providing safe, easily accessible green spaces which can be used by all age groups. People will then have the opportunity to interact with other members of their community. The value that green spaces have in the essential development of community links should not be underplayed.

Many people need initial encouragement to use green spaces and take advantage of the benefits. It is therefore important to ensure that adequate resources and funding is dedicated to the promotion of these areas in order to attract more users. There are opportunities to attract third party funding and also the potential for sponsorship.

The demographics of the Horsham District are changing with figures identifying an increasingly ageing population. These changes may impact on the services provided, i.e. accessibility, events and facilities.



Football in Horsham Park



QUALITY



SAFETY



USAGE



INCOME



VOLUNTEERING



CONSERVATION



PERFORMANCE

It has been shown that access to attractive green open spaces has a positive impact on health and wellbeing as they provide opportunities for physical exercise as well as mental stimulation and a place to relax. Considering a number of factors such as air quality, stress and accessible areas for informal exercise, recent government research has placed a value of £300 per person per year on living close to a natural green space in terms of savings to the NHS.

Creating space for local food production, for example through the provision of allotments and community gardens, can also improve health by increasing access to healthy foods, the exercise they provide, social interaction and reconnecting communities with their local environment.

## OBJECTIVES

### 3.1 Seek to engage with people and increase users of green space and numbers of volunteers by implementing a publicity plan.

- ✿ Undertake surveys to assess changing user demographic and needs.
- ✿ Investigate our customer base, identify users and non-users and be aware of local, regional and national target audiences.
- ✿ Work with Horsham District Council Communications team to develop a formalised inter-departmental service level agreement for publicity (to include events, stories, wildlife sightings, volunteer activity, projects, site news)
- ✿ Work with our partners, such as Horsham in Bloom, on targeted promotional initiatives.
- ✿ Develop a consistent programme of publicity for Horsham Park, Southwater Country Park and Warnham Local Nature Reserve.
- ✿ Inform users of upcoming events.
- ✿ Communicate good value by publicising examples of best practice.



*Kayaking at Southwater Country Park*

- ✿ Inform users of new and changing horticultural and landscape schemes including meadow flower and wild flower information.
- ✿ Widen awareness of volunteer groups to encourage more participation.
- ✿ Increase awareness to the public of funding sources and voluntary contributors in line with the 'Big Society' concept.
- ✿ Promote the cemeteries service to widen awareness through initiatives such as news articles, open days etc.
- ✿ Identify opportunities for art based user groups.

### 3.2 Maximise opportunities for on-line publicity.

- ✿ Take advantage of developing information technology opportunities such as social media, internet blogs and YouTube to publicise events and other initiatives on green spaces.
- ✿ Ensure specific staff are sufficiently trained to update social media logs.



QUALITY



SAFETY



USAGE



INCOME



VOLUNTEERING



CONSERVATION



PERFORMANCE

- Quarterly update of static information on the Horsham District Council website.
- Encourage links from other websites including Horsham in Bloom, Horsham Town Community Partnership.
- Liaise with Economic Development Events Team to maximise opportunities for cross-publicity.

### 3.3 Maximise opportunities for publicity through TV, radio, newspaper, Council publications.

- Keep a diary to help promote our services. Aim for regular items sent to target publications in liaison with Horsham District Council Communications dept.

### 3.4 Deliver clear and informative on-site information.

- Ensure that appropriate signs welcome people into all of our key green spaces and play areas. Refer to funding table ref 3a.
- Ensure notice boards are placed in all key green spaces.
- Keep notice boards up to date with relevant information including ownership and contact details.
- Consider the use of QR tags on signage and notice boards to enable smartphone apps to access up to date event and news information.
- Keep publicity material up to date online, such as Riverside Walk, Free Play, Allotments, Southwater Country Park, Warnham Local Nature Reserve, Horsham Park, Countryside Events in partnership with other organisations, with part-funding from sponsorship or grant aid where possible, in order to reduce costs. See funding table ref 3b.
- Seek external funding to cover full printing costs of all future activities publications.
- Participation in corporately produced material and promotions online (eg Horsham District News, Social Media etc).



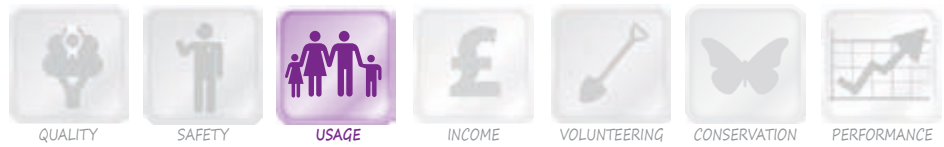
*Horsham Park notice board*

- Production of flyers and posters promoting website links to Parks & Countryside activities.
- Expand Countryside Events Programme to cover all Parks & Countryside sites.

### 3.5 Encourage Education and Community Involvement:

- Involve local people, particularly local schools, in learning about their green spaces, habitats, wildlife and importance through maintaining and improving established events and school activity programmes
- Develop self-funded field teacher opportunities to maximise the learning potential of Parks & Countryside sites.
- Encourage local people to become involved in, and learn more about our Countryside sites.
- Produce a business plan to demonstrate the viability of developing the recently re-acquired artists' studio as a volunteer run, community arts and environmental centre.
- Encourage schools to use their local woodlands / sites of interest.





- Investigate the potential for inspiring children and their families to use our green spaces more by doing school taster sessions.
- Provide practical advice to groups/schools wishing to establish forest schools (outdoor classrooms) on Horsham District Council land. Such advice would include help with risk assessments directly relating to trees within the proposed class areas and advice relating to any protected trees or other constraints within the site.
- Support a regular programme of guided walks and events for adults, children and families in partnership with local volunteers and community groups.
- Encourage community groups and volunteers to provide community events on Horsham District Council green spaces.
- Provide opportunities for education/public participation in the variety of trees we look after.

### 3.6 Provide opportunities for a wide variety of sports to take place across our sites.

- Continue to engage in partnership arrangements with local sports clubs operating on Horsham District Council green spaces to ensure local residents have access to the widest range of quality sports opportunities.
- Enter into an ongoing dialogue with Health & Wellbeing partners in respect of green spaces to ensure that appropriate facilities are provided in suitable locations to inspire all age groups to be active.
- Strive to provide facilities that meet the required Football Association standards for grass roots football.
- Provide facilities for tennis, basketball and hard court football etc.
- Consider opportunities for providing or extending facilities for other sports such as beach volleyball, table tennis, baseball, archery, climbing ropes etc.
- Consider opportunities for providing facilities for older people including petanque, outdoor gyms etc.
- Support the development of a pitch strategy which looks at future requirements for football pitch provision.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This table only identifies major parks & countryside projects.

Ref	Site	Action	Total cost	Year ending	Existing revenue	New revenue	HDC capital	Existing Section 106/CIL	New section 106/CIL	External grant
		Increase public awareness and engagement with green space								
3a	District Wide	Ensure that appropriate signs welcome people into all of our green spaces, play areas and our key parks and key woodlands.	£4,000	Annual	£4,000					
3b	District Wide	Update communication and publicity material online	£1,000	Annual	£1,000					
		<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>£5,000</b>		<b>£5,000</b>					



QUALITY



SAFETY



USAGE



INCOME



VOLUNTEERING



CONSERVATION



PERFORMANCE

## AIM 4 - Maximise the income potential of our green space assets

### PRINCIPLES

The income raising potential of green spaces has historically not been a priority for the Council, since free access for all has been one of the key principles for our green spaces.

In the current economic situation, there is an increasing awareness that where appropriate well designed green spaces which integrate with other uses can generate income to cover a significant element of the running costs of services without compromising the free access principle.

The Council has been working to improve income, and is now charging for activities such as boot camps and fitness training classes. Income can also be received for lettings such as fairs, circuses and commercial events. While there is always demand for putting on high profile concerts, the risk involved due to the British weather is high and has a limiting influence on organising such events. Even modest initiatives such as letting space for Ice Cream vans or running a bouncy castle by the play area in Horsham Park require attention to

ensure such opportunities are not lost. There is a need to ensure that charging is fair and does not have a significant adverse effect on visitor experience or usage of sites.

Historically the Council has had a range of different pricing arrangements based on varying criteria. In order to provide consistency and a transparent approach to charging, the following principles should apply:

**Commercial ventures** - price levels are set taking into account operational costs, anticipated income, the market rate and the hire of the site.

**Sports and sports clubs, allotments,** - price levels are set taking into account operational costs and the market rate.

**Burial services** - price levels are set taking into account operational costs and the market rate. The aim should be that the cost of provision of the burial service is covered by the charges made.

**Charities** - price levels are set taking into account any associated operational costs.

**Internally organised events** - operational costs to facilitate the event are charged internally.



*Jubilee concert in the Human Nature Garden in Horsham Park*



QUALITY



SAFETY



USAGE



INCOME



VOLUNTEERING



CONSERVATION



PERFORMANCE

Prices are reviewed on an annual basis based on the above principles and the annual rate of inflation.

The areas where there is most revenue raising capacity is on the larger sites such as Southwater Country Park, Warnham Local Nature Reserve and Horsham Park. The way that these services are branded needs to be investigated, since identification with higher profile national brands could significantly raise demand levels.

The provision of green open spaces can contribute directly to economic growth by having a positive impact on land and property markets. This in turn creates a setting for investment and acts as a catalyst for wider growth. Research has also shown that businesses opt to locate in greener settings as it helps to attract and retain staff. People also prefer to live in attractive 'leafy' areas and this has been shown to increase property values.

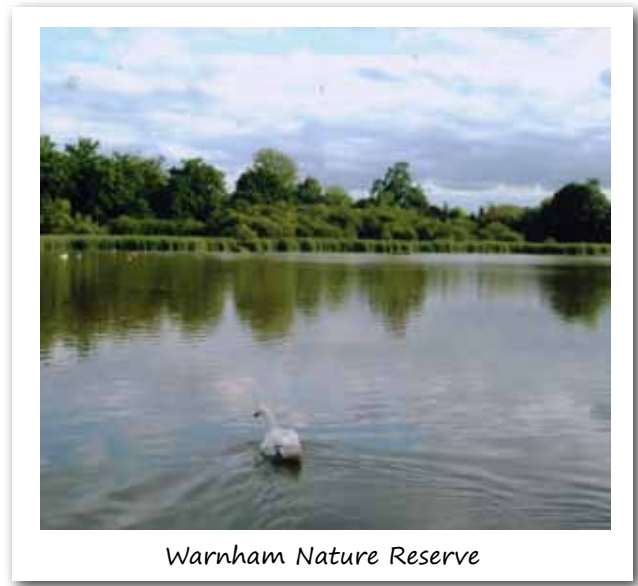
## OBJECTIVES

### 4.1 Identify opportunities for increasing income through delivering our own events.

- Ensure we have a regularly reviewed list of charges and conditions
- Develop an inter-departmental service level agreement for managing large events.
- Link events into national campaign days.

### 4.2 Identify opportunities for increasing income through hiring green spaces for externally run events.

- Aim to achieve 15% additional income per annum through supporting carefully targeted income generation opportunities. Ensure these meet the needs of our users and take into account the needs of regular usage.



### 4.3 Identify opportunities for increasing income.

- Identify opportunities for selling firewood, chippings, mulch etc.
- Identify opportunities for sponsorship through advertising.
- Promote the opportunity for hiring buildings to green spaces users.
- Investigate the potential for introducing a charge for family history searches performed by cemeteries staff.
- Consider the potential for certain sites to introduce a donation scheme.

### 4.4 Investigate opportunities to provide new external partnerships, developing the service offered to visitors.

- New cycle hire arrangements at Southwater Country Park.
- New catering opportunities at Chesworth Farm.
- New initiatives such as circus skills workshops, bouncy castles, outdoor adventure skills, fitness classes, artificial ice-rink.
- Wi-fi service at visitor centres and key locations.
- Introduce catering concessions during football games and other park events.



#### 4.5 Get the best return on income generating sites.

- £ Southwater Country Park Outdoor Activity Centre Project - Identify and work with local partners to enhance visitor provision. Improve outdoor facilities including play area, beach, skate park. Maintain and improve building resources in order to add to visitor experience, inform on site ecology and enhance educational provision to visitors. Review water sports pricing and develop a plan for charging for car parking. Proactively engage with catering providers to develop service and maximise income. Review catering, watersports and other outsourced services on a cyclical basis. Refer to funding table ref 4a.
- £ Warnham Local Nature Reserve Wetland Visitor Initiative - Identify and work with local partners to enhance visitor provision. Add to the visitor experience by creating an innovative, educational play zone to inspire children to use their senses. Maintain and improve building resources in order to add to visitor experience, inform on-site ecology and enhance educational provision to visitors. Proactively engage with new catering franchises to develop service and increase income. Refer to funding table ref 4b.
- \* Chesworth Farm Community Arts and Education Studio - Investigate the potential

for volunteer-led service improvements such as maintaining and improving buildings in order to add to the visitor experience, inform on-site ecology and enhance educational provision to visitors. Investigate new catering arrangements.

- \* Hills Cemetery - Introduce cemetery packages which promote the full service offering. Increase usage of the chapel and meeting room.
- \* Horsham Park - Attract at least one fair and one circus to Horsham Park each year, encourage small businesses such as bootcamps, dog training etc to use our sites for a small fee, identify an ice cream van to service Horsham Park during the school summer holidays. Review charging options for tennis courts.

#### 4.6 Encourage visitors to the Horsham District to help boost visitor economy.

- \* Encourage economic growth by maximising visitor experience to the town by providing innovative planting schemes and exceptional visitor attractions such as Horsham Park, Southwater Country Park and Warnham Local Nature Reserve.
- \* Support Horsham Town Community Partnership to deliver a Horsham Riverside Walk improvement project.

### Financial implications

This table only identifies major parks & countryside projects.

Ref	Site	Action	Total cost	Year ending	Existing revenue	New revenue	HDC capital	Existing Section 106/CIL	New section 106/CIL	External grant
Maximise the potential of green space assets										
4a	Southwater Country Park	Outdoor facilities improvements (play area, beach) and investigation of development of the park as an outdoor activity centre	£202,500	Mar-15	£5,500		£95,000	£102,000		
4b	Warnham Mill Pond	Wetland visitor attraction	£250,000	Mar-15						£250,000
		TOTALS	£452,500		£5,500		£95,000	£102,000		£250,000

# A vision for Southwater Country Park

Since it was established in the 1980s, Southwater Country Park has grown from a small low key facility to a large visitor destination which caters for water sports, informal recreation, picnics and family outdoor pursuits. The popularity of Southwater Country Park has never been greater. Visitor numbers have risen from approximately 80,000 to 120,000 visits per year (estimated) in the past five years, with a wide cross-section of users attracted to the range of different activities offered. The Park has a significant potential to be developed further as a hub for outdoor activities as a vibrant, economically successful and sustainable community based Outdoor Activities Centre.

A new vision has been developed which identifies visitor experience as the key driver to develop the Park. An outline business plan has been developed which identifies opportunities for strong growth in income, which in turn provides a sound investment base to justify capital expenditure. Investment into repairing and improving the existing facilities, along with new attractions, would see a large increase in visitor numbers, significant increase in visitor experience and with it a vastly increased income potential which would see a significant investment returned within a reasonably short timescale. A new vision, built on an already successful leisure facility, has been developed to:

- ✿ Re-brand the Country Park as a community based Outdoor Activities Centre;
- ✿ exploit the site's natural beauty in maximising its recreational potential;
- ✿ strengthen the visitor experience offered to attract people of all ages to enjoy the Park's wide range of facilities;
- ✿ make the Park an example of good customer service standards and visitor service provision;
- ✿ engage the local community in the management of the Park and involve volunteers in actively managing the site;
- ✿ continue to protect and enhance the site's natural features and diverse wildlife habitats.





QUALITY



SAFETY



USAGE



INCOME



VOLUNTEERING



CONSERVATION



PERFORMANCE

## AIM 5 - Support, encourage and mentor voluntary groups

### PRINCIPLES

Volunteering across Horsham's green spaces already makes an incredible contribution to the service, and many of our sites would not be the places they are today without their involvement. Volunteering already takes many different forms, including Neighbourhood Councils, Community Partnerships, Friends and Conservation Groups, Horsham Green Gym, the various Bloom groups, the highest profile being Horsham in Bloom, School volunteer days, business social responsibility initiatives, Princes Trust, Scouts and Guides, Rotary Clubs and many others.

Volunteering also includes countless people who we do not even know who take the initiative and carry about a bag with them picking up litter that other thoughtless people have left behind.

Volunteer involvement runs across a continuum from those who directly support the Council (in effect unpaid employees), to informal groups who come together occasionally (e.g. Neighbours Pond Cleaning day), then to formally constituted groups, such as the various 'in Bloom' groups, Horsham Green Gym etc, and then finally to entirely autonomous charities such as RSPB, where the Council runs initiatives under partnership arrangements.

The amount and type of support volunteers require depends on the type of group and what their aims are.

While volunteering offers the opportunity to 'fill the gap' where the public sector is no longer able to be involved, sustainable voluntary initiatives which meet community needs need to be nurtured, developed and supported if they are to make a valuable contribution. Without such support, groups can quickly flounder, lose

their focus and tend to disintegrate if a key person falls out of the picture.

As the Council works increasingly closer with such groups, it is imperative that the appropriate support measures are put in place, even if this means that the structure of the service has to be changed in order to meet their needs.

Green space volunteering should be welcomed, valued, supported and promoted by the Council. Volunteer activities should be targeted to the areas of greatest benefit and care must be taken to ensure that appropriate ratios between staff and volunteers are appropriately supported.

Volunteers working directly for the Council should be able to contribute fully to the organisation and be properly integrated into the structure and ethos of the Council. Volunteers have personal and developmental needs that need to be managed and supported.

The Council is committed to the provision of a safe place to work and will ensure that risks are reduced to a level which is as low as reasonably practicable.



*Friends of Meadowside open new play area*



QUALITY



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USAGE



INCOME



VOLUNTEERING



CONSERVATION



PERFORMANCE

## OBJECTIVES

### Management Proposal - Need for Volunteer Coordination

Horsham District has 23 parks and countryside volunteer groups who annually contribute over 2000 volunteer days of work on Council owned parks and countryside sites.

Parks and countryside volunteers are local people who want to make a contribution, exercise, make new friends, have a sense of belonging, gain knowledge, learn new skills, be part of something professional, benefit wildlife or make places look better. The following table provides an estimate of the number of active volunteers working on parks and countryside sites across the Horsham District.

Name	Volunteer input per year	Number of active volunteers
Horsham Green Gym	5400hrs	120
Sandgate Conservation Volunteers	500hrs	25
Hills Farm Conservation Group	504hrs	14
Boldings Brook Conservation Group	300hrs	10
Friends of Earls Meadow	300hrs	12
Parks & Countryside Volunteer Warden	800hrs	1
Tanbridge Residents Improve the Arun River (TRITAR)	270hrs	20
Storrington Conservation Volunteers	126hrs	14
Friends of New Street Garden	24hrs	2
Monkmead Woods Conservation Volunteers	432hrs	8
Henfield Conservation Volunteers	240hrs	8
North Street Ribbon Bed Volunteers	640hrs	8
Nuthatch Way Conservation Group	24hrs	8
Horsham in Bloom Volunteers	323hrs	6
Strawford Volunteers	525hrs	5
Horsham Town Community Partnership (Riverside Walk)	500hrs	10
Alder Copse Volunteers	30hrs	2
Parks & Countryside Wildlife Survey Volunteers	1500hrs	40
Friends of Meadowside	160hrs	8
Friends of Victory Road Recreation Ground	60hrs	2
Friends of Chesworth Farm	1200hrs	10
Friends of Warnham Local Nature Reserve	2400hrs	20
Needles Community Garden Volunteer	18hrs	1

Their work is vital in the maintenance and wildlife conservation of green spaces throughout Horsham District. The groups are mostly independent, some with their own constitutions and committees, even purchasing some of their own tools and materials for volunteer tasks. In order to help these volunteers feel valued and for everyone to benefit from the work they do, regular input is required from the District Council.



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INCOME



VOLUNTEERING



CONSERVATION



PERFORMANCE

Over recent years the Council has worked closely with the volunteer groups to establish their needs. This has been done through:

- Development and training of Horsham Green Gym volunteers to undertake more specialist practical tasks (e.g. boardwalk construction);
- Establishment of a new Thursday Green Gym group to meet volunteer capacity;
- Attendance at volunteer group committee meetings to liaise with volunteers and offer support;
- Assistance to Friends of Meadowside with applications for external funding;
- Organisation of volunteer 'thank you' events (e.g. Summer volunteer barbecue, bat walk for Friends of Chesworth Farm)
- Liaison with volunteers during Horsham in Bloom events;
- Close working with new Floral Ribbon Planting group, Horsham in Bloom and Friends of Chesworth Farm group to assist in successful establishment of groups and volunteer activities;
- Close working with Friends of Warnham Nature Reserve to deliver countryside events programme on behalf of Council;
- Ongoing liaison with Monkmead Woods Conservation Volunteers and Sandgate Park Conservation Volunteers to encourage volunteer management of site and reduce practical staff input;

- Establishment of a 'Volunteer Warden' post to work with Countryside Warden team.
- Ongoing liaison with all groups to ensure their input is valued.

There is a great demand for practical volunteer tasks in the Horsham District and some of the volunteer groups (notably Horsham Green Gym) are at full capacity. Parks and countryside staff are also at full capacity in terms of supporting these volunteers and there is a clear need to identify further staffing support to coordinate the growing volunteer economy.

- Improving Health & Safety knowledge and working practises among the groups.
- Providing a worthwhile programme of volunteer activities, which is interesting and challenging;
- Encouraging the groups to become more sustainable to ensure their long-term success;
- Developing the abilities of the volunteers to be able to take on more challenging tasks;
- Helping groups attract new volunteers;
- Developing a volunteer reward programme to help retention of active volunteers;
- Establishment of a volunteer training programme to help develop active volunteers.



Volunteer barbecue at Chesworth Farm

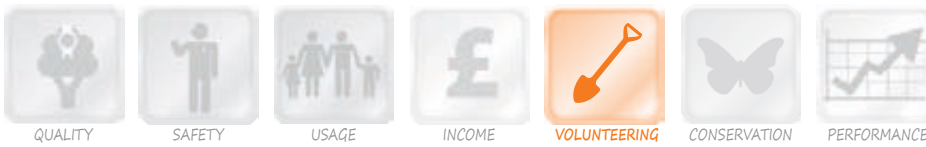




*Hoirsham Green Gym at Leechpool Woods*

**5.1 Structure the Parks and Countryside Service to be better aligned to our volunteering service priorities.**

- ✿ Identify key areas where volunteer involvement can provide a clear benefit to the Council.
- ✿ Ensure the internal organisation of the department is structured to support a rapidly growing volunteer force, including opportunities for work experience and corporate team building.
- ✿ Continuously engage with and train the next generation of volunteers.
- ✿ To develop our policy of best practice with volunteers and coordinate and expand a large network of volunteers to help manage and maintain our green spaces and run community and educational events.
- ✿ Carefully plan tasks to ensure that standards are maintained and best value achieved. There may be jobs that are cheaper to be done by a contractor, but provide good training value for volunteers.
- ✿ Follow the Horsham District Council Volunteering Policy which covers aspects such as induction, training, supervision. Provide a mentor for each group to provide liaison between the group and councillors and lead officers. This works best when staff engage regularly with the groups.
- ✿ The post of Community Engagement Warden will be important in providing practical on-site support for the increasing number of volunteer groups, which could not otherwise be effectively managed.
- ✿ Provide technical assistance for grant applications.
- ✿ Establish new links with other agencies who may wish to have partnership arrangements for mutual benefit e.g. NHS - Green Gym - Horsham District Council Parks & Countryside



## 5.2 Support our green volunteering economy by developing a model for working with volunteers.

- 🌻 Develop a model for green space volunteering along with a contract of engagement and clear health & safety and insurance guidelines.
- 🌻 Complete and adopt an Allotment Strategy with a focus on providing allotment gardeners with the opportunity to directly manage their own sites.
- 🌻 Develop a volunteer incentives programme, including skills training and personal development.
- 🌻 Investigate the potential of providing a volunteer discount card.
- £ Retain the former artists studio at Chesworth Farm as a 'Volunteer Centre' primarily for use by green space volunteer groups. This will provide a base for

volunteer training, volunteer led events, fundraising activities, social events and tools and equipment storage. See funding table ref 5a.

## 5.3 Subject to staffing resources, encourage new volunteering opportunities.

- 🌻 Work with Southwater Parish Council to establish a new Friends group for Southwater Country Park to assist with active site maintenance, visitor welcome, consultation and fundraising potential.
- 🌻 Liaise with CVS, Horsham in Bloom and other organisations to encourage new volunteering opportunities and to encourage a more diverse range of volunteers.
- 🌻 Recruit and develop volunteer wardens to assist in the management and patrol of sites.

### *New Street Garden – a hidden gem*

*After several unsuccessful attempts to turn this derelict piece of land into a community garden, a public meeting was arranged in December 2002 from which a 'Friends' group was formed.*

*With the help of Parks Services staff and funding, the newly formed Committee successfully applied for sufficient external funding to transform this area into a beautiful garden for all the community to share, and the garden was completed and opened in November 2005.*

*Some of the original members of the Friends group are still voluntarily looking after the garden today and it is now also used by local groups and churches for storytime sessions and Carol singing at Christmas.*

## Financial implications

This table only identifies major parks & countryside projects.

Ref	Site	Action	Total cost	Year ending	Existing revenue	New revenue	HDC capital	Existing Section 106/CIL	New section 106/CIL	External grant
Support, encourage and mentor voluntary groups										
5a	Chesworth Volunteer Centre	Essential Volunteer Centre Improvements	£25,000					£25,000		
		TOTALS	£25,000					£25,000		





QUALITY



SAFETY



USAGE



INCOME



VOLUNTEERING



CONSERVATION



PERFORMANCE

## AIM 6 - Enhance the wildlife conservation value of our green spaces

### PRINCIPLES

Horsham District's green spaces contain significant amounts of wildlife habitat which support a rich biodiversity. It is important that these habitats are managed sensitively to protect and enhance this biodiversity for current and future generations to enjoy. Priorities should include the conservation of natural habitats wherever possible, to increase wildlife value and improve biodiversity on all green spaces.

Examples of important wildlife-rich habitat in the Horsham District include:

**Heathland** is found at Owlbeech Woods, Sandgate Park and Monkmead Woods. It is an open habitat characterised by lower growing native heathers, grasses, gorse and wildflowers. The habitat tends to be warmer and attracts cold blooded reptiles such as protected Slow Worm, shy Adder and (not so) Common Lizard. Heathland needs to be carefully managed with grazing, scrub clearance and lots of volunteer labour to stop it becoming overgrown with birch, bracken and bramble. Protected birds found in the Horsham District include Nightjar, Woodlark and Woodcock and unusual plants include the insectivorous Sundew.

**Grassland** - types of grassland can vary but the ones with lower nutrient levels and good variety of native grasses, herbs and wildflowers have better biodiversity. These attract scarce farmland birds such as Skylark, Yellowhammer, House Martin and Redwing, all found around Chesworth Farm's grassland. Grassland requires a careful combination of grazing and hay cutting to keep its wildlife value. Wildflower grassland is also prominent at Southwater Country Park and North Horsham's Motte & Bailey site.



*Bee Orchid at Southwater Country Park*



*Owlbeech Woods heathland*



*Chesworth Farm cows*



*Chesworth Farm view from Great Horsham Hill*



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CONSERVATION



PERFORMANCE



*Leechpool Woods / Owlbeech Woods*

**Woodland**, such as Leechpool Woods and Sandgate Park is a more common habitat but one which is highly valued by residents and visitors. Woodland still requires careful management through thinning and scrub management to allow light to reach the forest floor and encourage growth of a diverse plant understorey. Butterflies such as Purple Emperor and Speckled Wood are attracted to grassy woodland rides and glades.



*Heathland at Monkmead Wood in West Chiltington*

**Wet woodland**, which can be found at Warnham Nature Reserve, Ben's Acre and Monkmead Woods is a particularly rare woodland type as the wet conditions allow growth of rare ferns, mosses and lichens. It is often subject to invasion from non-natives such as American Skunk Cabbage, Himalayan Balsam and Giant Hogweed which take over, eliminating native species, and needing intensive control work.



*Purple Emperor butterfly (photo courtesy Eddie Howard)*

**Hedgerow** refers to lines of trees and scrub along field margins such as at Chesworth Farm. Hedgerow needs management through flailing or hedgelaying to keep the lines of trees and shrubs low-growing and dense which favours the many species of birds and insects that can live and nest within.



*Reedbed at Warnham Nature Reserve*

**Wetlands** include the lakes, ponds, rivers and ditches of all sizes which are found on many of the District's green spaces. They provide refuge for fish, newts, frogs, dragonflies and damselflies. The dipping ponds at Warnham Nature Reserve which are used every Summer by visiting schools are home to 24 species of dragonfly. Undisturbed river bank is an important habitat. Wetlands need to be desilted on occasion to prevent them from drying up and can often become overgrown with non-native invasives, requiring management to protect their wildlife values.

**The reedbed** at Warnham Nature Reserve is a special and rare habitat around lake margins. It can support scarce birds such as Bittern, Bearded Tit and Cetti's Warbler but needs some management through cutting and



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CONSERVATION



PERFORMANCE

removal of reeds to encourage new growth and maintain biodiversity.

A number of these sites have a special designation which offers a greater level of protection. These include Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI), Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW), Scheduled Ancient Monuments, tree preservation orders, sites within the South Downs National Park. See Appendix 2 for further information.

It is important that these wildlife rich habitats are managed sensitively and that conflicting priorities between wildlife and recreational value are managed carefully.

Connecting green space habitats is also important in making habitats larger and more viable and allowing species to migrate between green spaces. This can be done through appropriate management of interconnected green spaces (regardless of their individual size), establishment of wildlife habitats and liaison with neighbouring landowners and managers to enhance biodiversity. A prime example of the importance connectivity plays in linking valued habitats is the river corridor between Warnham Nature Reserve and Chesworth Farm.

It is important to keep ongoing records of site wildlife to provide a picture over time of how habitats are developing and improving or declining. The Council currently has around 40 wildlife recording volunteers who contribute to Sussex Wildlife Trust's wildlife records centre.

## OBJECTIVES

**6.1 Manage our key sites in lines with site management plans and update on a five year cycle.**

**6.2 Manage green spaces wherever possible in order to protect biodiversity for current and future generations to enjoy and learn.**

- ✿ Determine and maintain an appropriate balance between wildlife and amenity and recreational values of green spaces.
- ✿ Manage woodland habitats in order to promote a range of native plant species.
- ✿ Establish traditional grazing and hay cutting regimes on green spaces wherever appropriate to best manage sites while taking into account costs and possible returns.
- ✿ Consider impact on biodiversity in all green space management including planting schemes.
- ✿ When planning access within green space areas, measures should be taken to limit disturbance to important habitats, while recognising that the primary function of green space is for public use and enjoyment.
- ✿ Seek to attain additional designations where appropriate for green spaces in order to stress their importance and value to local people, for example Local Nature Reserve and SNCI status.
- ✿ Periodically review grounds maintenance specifications to ensure natural and wild flower areas are maintained at an appropriate level on riverside sites and other natural environments.
- ✿ Continue partnership with Sussex Wildlife Trust to record wildlife on green spaces, involving wildlife survey volunteers.
- ✿ Carry out surveys for rare Dormouse which may be present in Chesworth's ancient hedges.





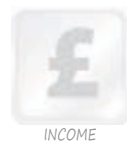
QUALITY



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INCOME



VOLUNTEERING



CONSERVATION



PERFORMANCE

## Management proposal

The Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance states that there should be at least one hectare of LNR per 1000 population.

Horsham District currently has two Local Nature Reserves of 42ha (Warnham Nature Reserve 38ha and Tottington Wood 5ha) for a 130,000 population, which is only 0.3ha per 1000 population. A further 88ha is required to meet guidelines.

The most appropriate area of land which would meet Natural England guidelines for LNR status is Chesworth Farm (37ha).

In addition, the National Planning Policy Framework is supportive of the preservation, restoration and re-creation of biodiversity. It also makes provision for the designation of 'Local Green Spaces', under certain circumstances, and it is considered that this possibility should be investigated in relation to the Chesworth Farm site.

### 6.3 Manage specific green spaces in order to increase biodiversity for current and future generations to enjoy and learn.

- ❁ Conserve and where possible improve natural habitats and their wildlife values.
- ❁ Restore areas of former reedbed at Warnham Nature Reserve to increase biodiversity and improve water quality of the Millpond and surrounding water courses subject to available funding.

- ❁ Manage and where possible increase areas of threatened habitat found on green spaces, for example heath land, unimproved grassland, reedbed and wet woodland.
- ❁ Manage and enhance areas of regionally scarce and important heath land at Owlbeech Woods, Monkmead Wood and Sandgate Park.
- ❁ Where appropriate and cost effective, manage areas of land through grazing animals in order to enhance the biodiversity and provide visitor attraction and learning.
- ❁ Where appropriate, seek to restore habitat and improve wildlife value of some areas traditionally managed as amenity green space.
- ❁ Seek to influence management of neighbouring areas where there is a direct benefit to wildlife value (eg coordinated control of invasive species or extending wildlife corridors).
- ❁ Identify horticultural sites that could be planted to attract more butterflies, bees and birds.
- £ Secure funding for habitat improvements within Monkmead Woods. Refer to funding table ref 6a.

### 6.4 Ensure green space is retained for more indirect environmental benefits such as surface water attenuation and climate change mitigation.

- ❁ Promote the good design and implementation of sustainable urban drainage systems for new developments to ensure that the quality and level of green space provision is not compromised.



**6.5 Meet the requirements of local and national legislation.**

- Work with key stakeholders to address the legal requirement to reduce flood risk from Warnham Mill Pond reservoir whilst seeking to minimise its environmental impact.

**Financial implications**

This table only identifies major parks & countryside projects.

Ref	Site	Action	Total cost	Year ending	Existing revenue	New revenue	HDC capital	Existing Section 106/CIL	New section 106/CIL	External grant
Build on the ecological value of our green spaces										
6a	Monkmead Wood	Habitat improvements	£2,000	Mar-15						£2,000
		<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>£2,000</b>							<b>£2,000</b>



Southwater Country Park Lake and visitor Centre





## AIM 7 - Deliver excellent value and high performance while keeping the customer at the heart of what we do

### PRINCIPLES

At the time of writing in 2012, the Government is engaged in a major programme of deficit reductions by imposing an unprecedented restriction in public sector spending.

We have reached a point where if we want to protect frontline services, we need to find radical solutions. This means looking at our ambitions and priorities; options for delivering services in different ways, such as outsourcing or sharing; ways of raising income; rationalising our services and ensuring the Council gets the best possible deal when it procures services.

We are at the start of a challenging period in the Council's history. Whilst change creates uncertainty it is also an opportunity to improve, and by taking the initiative and evaluating the way we deliver our service now, we can help to sustain services for the future.

Linking in to ASPIRE, which is the over-arching name for the six strands of the District Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy, will contribute to determining how the Council addresses the significant budget challenges we face.

Evidence demonstrates that well maintained greenspaces can be vibrant places having a host of benefits whereas reduced maintenance of areas can produce an array of un-intended consequences which are costly to address. Such disrepair can lead to anti-social behaviour, vandalism, graffiti and fear of crime. There is widespread evidence that investment in quality greenspaces is a cost effective means of maintaining the quality of life for local residents.

The strengths of the Parks and Countryside team are a small but dedicated in-house team of front line 'ambassadors', local contractors who have a sense of ownership for their work and an army of enthusiastic volunteers. We need to build on these strengths to provide a future service which identifies the most suitable balance of these three elements to provide an excellent service at an affordable cost. Negotiations for a new grounds maintenance contract should make full recognition of these partnerships.

The engagement of local contractors demonstrates the Council's commitment to developing a successful local economy with high levels of employment for local people (see page 20).



*Human Nature Garden in Horsham Park*



QUALITY



SAFETY



USAGE



INCOME



VOLUNTEERING



CONSERVATION



PERFORMANCE

## OBJECTIVES

### 7.1 To proactively plan our service.

- Ensure that all major sites have Management Plans which are reviewed on a 5 year basis.
- Annually review investment priorities for capital and external funding.
- Ensure an annual programme of revenue works (i.e. repairs, renewals, drainage etc.) is developed and approved before each new financial year.
- Ensure all projects are coordinated with a unified plan to ensure that the necessary staff and financial resources are available.
- Subject to a sound business case, work with other partner organisations to develop a fully computerised burial records and management system.

### 7.2 Ensure that work is properly prioritised, managed and resourced.

- Hold quarterly work function meetings to review objectives, budgets and workload.
- Employ seasonal staff to cost-effectively manage sites at the busiest times of year.
- Ensure all relevant staff are trained to manage larger projects within a project management framework.
- Ensure that all contract works are fully and clearly specified, and ensure that the responsibilities of each partner are understood.
- Ensure that all contracted works are effectively managed by officers designated to carry out this function.
- Ensure that the Parks & Countryside restructure identifies contract management and inspection roles.



*Grass cutting*



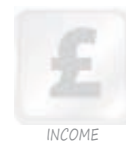
QUALITY



SAFETY



USAGE



INCOME



VOLUNTEERING



CONSERVATION



PERFORMANCE

- Ensure that regular contract review meetings are scheduled and minuted.
- Use a standard method for reviewing new work requests. A pro forma should be used to ensure work is relevant to the strategy, achievable and cost effective.

### **7.3 To manage our sites to ensure appropriate grounds maintenance standards are consistently maintained.**

- Develop a computerised system (ideally in partnership with other local authorities) for green space maintenance and management which includes recorded schedules of work, recorded site inspections, recording of defects, rectification reports and schedules of rates. Link this in to the electronic maps and specifications.
- Carry out scheduled inspections of sites to ensure that contractors are meeting standards set and that work is carried out in a timely way.
- Review grounds maintenance specifications on a periodic basis to ensure best practice.
- Review opportunities for alternative methods of managing and maintaining green spaces.
- Wherever possible, implement design principles for lowest cost maintenance while maintaining quality landscapes.
- Review staff and contractors qualifications and training.
- Where necessary arrange training as appropriate and aim for one team training course each year to develop cross departmental skills and assist with team building.
- Ensure training needs are identified on personal development plans and priority training needs addressed.

### **7.4 Redesign the way we deliver our service.**

- Develop a plan for the re-structure of the merged Parks and Countryside

Department as a result of retirements and retendering of grounds maintenance arrangements.

- Parks and Countryside are currently at full capacity in addressing planning related issues. It is paramount to ensure that planning related issues pertaining to green spaces are addressed from the earliest stage of the planning process. If such issues are not properly addressed, the potential value and public use of public spaces can be seriously affected with a direct impact on the quality of life for local residents. It is proposed that the Parks and Countryside restructure fully addresses this issue.
- Work in partnership with Mid Sussex District Council to finalise Grounds Maintenance specifications and let the new grounds maintenance contract by January 2014.
- Review current work operations to identify whether they are best managed under in-house, contractual or volunteer arrangements.
- Ensure that opportunities for directly appointed volunteers are maximised.
- Identify further opportunities for working in partnership with other local authorities in the region.

### **7.5 Work to reduce the cost of managing and maintaining green spaces while maintaining the quality of the areas.**

- Develop a policy statement for the efficient disposal of all waste materials, minimising the double handling of waste and maximising efficiency and cost effectiveness.
- Ensure best value is achieved for contract works by ensuring all suppliers are accredited by the Council and can demonstrate high quality and competitive rates.
- Encourage operational as well as office based staff to identify ideas for efficiency savings.



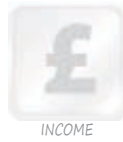
QUALITY



SAFETY



USAGE



INCOME



VOLUNTEERING



CONSERVATION



PERFORMANCE

- Actively promote the formation of societies on all Horsham District Council allotment sites.
- Implement a rationalisation programme for parks and countryside operational bases to reduce costs.
- Deliver the play area rationalisation programme to reduce investment in out-dated and under-used play equipment, while focusing on key sites offering high play value. Refer to funding table ref 7a.
- Review the provision of green spaces in parished areas to identify isolated sites where Parish Council's or third parties may be better funded to support them.
- Review procurement arrangements for maintenance of equipment across all Parks and Countryside teams to maximise efficiencies of scale.
- Ensure internal recharges from other departments reflect the true value of provision.

#### **7.6 Ensure that we are making best use of funding opportunities.**

- Lead in coordinating the spend of the Section 106 open space, sport and recreation contributions.
- Ensure commuted sums are being used for maintenance of new sites.
- Make best use of Section 106 community facilities contributions.
- Work with the Lottery and Grants Officer to identify opportunities for external funding of projects.
- Identify and specify a programme of works prior to the next financial year.
- Consult with Parish Councils to coordinate the expenditure of the S106 developer contributions for open space and recreation in parished areas.
- Coordinate the expenditure of the S106 developer contributions for open space and recreation for Holders Close, Billingshurst.
- Identify methods of funding for the improvement plan (Section 106, Community Infrastructure Levy, external grant, capital budget).

#### **7.7 Ensure that tools and machinery are routinely audited and equipment is regularly serviced by fully trained mechanics.**

- Develop a 10 year repairs and renewals programme.

#### **7.8 Provide effective customer service.**

- Investigate the use of a call logging system to manage customer queries more efficiently.
- Implement the online mapping system to enable all Parks and Countryside staff to view maintenance regimes therefore offering precise and timely information to customers at the time of the enquiry.
- Maximise the opportunity for online payment of bills.

#### **7.9 Maximise external funding to invest in our green spaces.**

- Continue to encourage volunteer groups to apply for external funding to improve the value of our green spaces.
- Continue to seek contributions from developers to improve the value of our green spaces.

#### **7.10 Demonstrate sustainable horticulture and tolerating a degree of pest damage without resorting to the use of pesticides.**

- Minimise pesticide use through mulching, pruning out diseased/damaged growth and selecting pest/disease resistant plants.
- Use recycled green waste for soil conditioning and mulching.
- Maximise the capacity for grey water collection and re-use in watering.
- Identify opportunities for changing existing planting to drought tolerant planting schemes.
- Minimise the use of peat and source suitable, alternative peat replacement products whenever possible.



## Financial implications

This table only identifies major parks & countryside projects.

Ref	Site	Action	Total cost	Year ending	Existing revenue	New revenue	HDC capital	Existing section 106/CIL	New section 106/CIL	External grant
7a	District Wide	Deliver the play rationalisation programme	£16,000	Annual	£16,000					
		TOTALS	£16,000		£16,000					



North Street ribbon planting

## Funding

There are a number of funding streams available for developing, managing and maintaining public open spaces. It should be recognised that the Council's revenue budget is relatively small for the service being delivered and the team deliver many high profile projects by obtaining external funds from organisations such as Big Lottery, Landfill Tax Credits etc. The process often involves liaison with community groups who can access the funds and is very time consuming but very worthwhile.

### Horsham District Council Budget

#### Revenue funding

In 2012/13, the net expenditure of the Parks & Countryside Service, including all overheads amounted to £697k (excluding grounds maintenance).

Currently this funding is used for all maintenance, tree works, new playground equipment, floral displays, etc.

Over the last 5 years there have been considerable reductions on Parks and Countryside budgets. Services which add to the 'experience', but are not essential, such as landscape improvements and floral displays, have been 'pruned' to a greater degree than routine contract services such as grass cutting. This had a modest effect, but poses increasing significant challenges to the quality of our green spaces if this were to continue.

Creative new solutions have been developed by the Parks Services team, such as the widely acclaimed floral meadows in high profile areas of Horsham Town, and the excellent Diamond Jubilee Floral Ribbon in North Street, where the planting was funded by Novartis through Horsham in Bloom, and the Council has set up a volunteer team to maintain it on an ongoing basis. Unless a continued high level of external

funding is achieved, in combination with strong volunteer engagement, it has to be accepted that the quality of the Horsham District's Green Spaces will continue to decline in future years with the current levels of budgetary provision.



*Horsham Park Playground*

#### Capital funding

There are a number of aspects of work across the Parks & Countryside Service where significant investment is required which is beyond the scope of normal revenue budgets. In such cases, capital funding can be requested.

Examples include regeneration of 'tired' neighbourhood green spaces, refurbishment of play areas and tennis courts, major footpath and car-park resurfacing and enhancements, pond dredging, larger fencing projects, boardwalks, buildings and other built infrastructure.

The nature of a number of enhancement projects which the Council facilitates, in particular environmental and community based projects, makes them applicable to a number of external grant funding opportunities. Capital funds provided by the Council can have a valuable 'pump-priming' role to release other funding sources. The greatest challenge to obtaining such funds is the amount of officer time required to meet the specific demands of the funding bodies.

The other challenge is that priorities can be ‘warped’ so that only projects with external funding opportunities are followed, which may not actually meet the demands of the local community. For this reason, there will always be a need for capital budgets to fully fund certain Parks & Countryside projects.

## Income

Green Spaces contribute significantly to the quality of life for local residents. This, however, does not preclude their use as an asset to maximise income opportunities for the Council if introduced with sensitivity.

When considering opportunities for increasing income generation across Parks and Countryside sites, the principle of ‘the user pays’ should be used cautiously. Very popular facilities such as play areas, open access multi-sports courts, table tennis and skate parks have extremely valuable social benefits, contribute to the development of young people, provide a sense of inclusion and give diversionary opportunities away from anti-social behaviour. In addition, the difficulty in charging for such facilities presents logistical challenges such as the practical collection of charges and policing of access. If the Council is to provide such services, provision will need to be made for their ongoing upkeep.

Current income streams are identified in the table on page 64. These need to be fundamentally reviewed to ensure that the appropriate level of income is realised in each case.

In addition, there are latent income opportunities which could be realised if the Council wish to pursue new business opportunities such as licencing ice cream vans, burger bars etc or allowing bouncy castle operators to operate on its sites.



*Southwater Country Park beach*

More significant income opportunities are available by actively addressing the venue potential at Southwater Country Park, Warnham Nature Reserve and the Studio at Chesworth Farm. There is the possibility of creating new business alliances which have synergies with the other site facilities. This is identified within the relevant Action Plan.

In some cases, targeted investment could realise a significantly enhanced income stream such as provision for a unique dining experience overlooking the exquisite Warnham Mill Pond.

West Sussex County Council employ private sponsors for their roundabouts. Once a sponsor is in place, Horsham District Council is paid an annual fee to maintain them.

They are:

- Redkiln Way/Kings Road Roundabout
- Station Road/Harwood Road Roundabout
- Horsham Station Roundabout
- Worthing Road Roundabout
- Comptons Lane/Harwood Road Roundabout
- Albion Way Roundabout

## Funding

The following table shows the the pattern of income routinely generated by Parks and Countryside activities and services over the last five years.

	Income (000)
Allotments (including allotment societies)	£23
Cemeteries	£113
Events (circus, fair, countryside events, charity runs)	£8
Football *	£14
Private hire (bootcamps, fitness training)	£5
Roundabouts	£5
Sponsorship (hanging baskets, railing planters, wildflower meadows)	£3-6
Southwater (watersports, fishing, cafe, parking donations)	£25
Warnham Nature Reserve (visitor permits, cafe)	£21
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>c £217</b>

\*Maximum income p.a. with no cancellations & all pitches booked out

### Developer contributions

Since the advent of the planning system in 1948 local planning authorities (such as Horsham District Council) have had the ability to negotiate and enter into agreements with developers to secure covenants and obligations that go beyond matters that can be controlled by conditions attached to planning permissions. Currently these agreements are entered into under section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

In addition to site specific infrastructure funding contributions (e.g. land and capital funds for new schools and play areas), the Council has collected developer contributions for community facilities and public open space (POS). The money attached to these obligations is often referred to as 'section 106 money'. This money is identified for a number of different purposes all of which would meet the needs of the development , and much of which can be used for the improvement of public open spaces where identified in the legal agreement.



### Community Facilities Contribution

The spending of section 106 money which has been contributed for 'community facilities' has historically been overseen by a panel of District Councillors who met on a regular basis to monitor and plan for the spending of contributions. The District Council, Parish Councils and other community organisations implement the improvements that are identified in the legal agreement.

### Contributions for open space sport and recreation

The spending of section 106 money which has been contributed for 'open space sport and recreation' is currently under review.

It should be noted that going forward, The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states the following:

Planning obligations should only be sought where they meet all of the following tests:

- necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms;
- directly related to the development; and
- fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development.

### Community Infrastructure Levy

As a result of changes made by Government in 2010, it is harder to secure financial contributions from developers where these are not sufficiently specific and relevant to the development. This is because the previous tests that governed what can be secured through a section 106 agreement and which were set out in successive Government policies over the years were given the force of law when they were incorporated into the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 and the NPPF which came into force in March 2012.

The regulations were made following the enactment of the Planning Act 2008 which

introduced the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). CIL will be a new charge which local planning authorities in England and Wales will be able to charge on most types of new development in their area. CIL charges will be based on simple formulae which relate the size of the charge to the size and character of the development paying it. The proceeds of the levy will be spent on local and sub-regional infrastructure to support the development of the area. CIL is intended to be used for general infrastructure contributions whilst section 106 obligations will be for the mitigation of site-specific development impacts.

The District Council's Strategic Planning Team is working on the policy documents we will need in order to introduce CIL by 2014. Parks and Countryside will be required to provide a strategic approach to identifying needs and opportunities for CIL contributions across the District.

### Management Proposal

It is recognised that we should have a more strategic approach to identify needs and opportunities across the district to help Horsham District Council determine how developer contributions should be spent in future. We would recommend that a list of open space, sport and recreation needs and projects which would address this need is created per parish over a ten year period, to include location, funding required and timescale for delivery.

### Commutated sums

The commuted sum is the money received from a developer which is invested to cover maintenance costs of a new public open space which is to be maintained for an initial period. Where this land is to be managed by Horsham District Council, this initial period has been identified as 20 years and after this period maintenance costs are covered under normal Council expenditure budgets.

## Funding

### Management Proposal

Carry out a review of commuted sum payments to ensure that developer contributions for the ongoing maintenance of sites are allocated and recorded in a clear and transparent manner.

The Council publish a table of rates on the Council's website to determine the level of commuted sum requested from a developer to enable Horsham District Council to take on the management and maintenance of green space. It is updated in line with inflation on an annual basis.

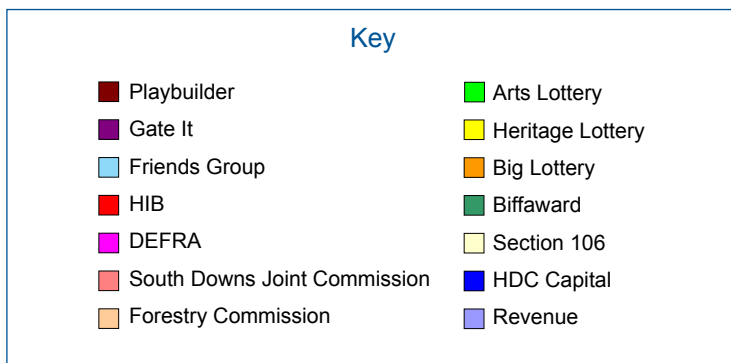
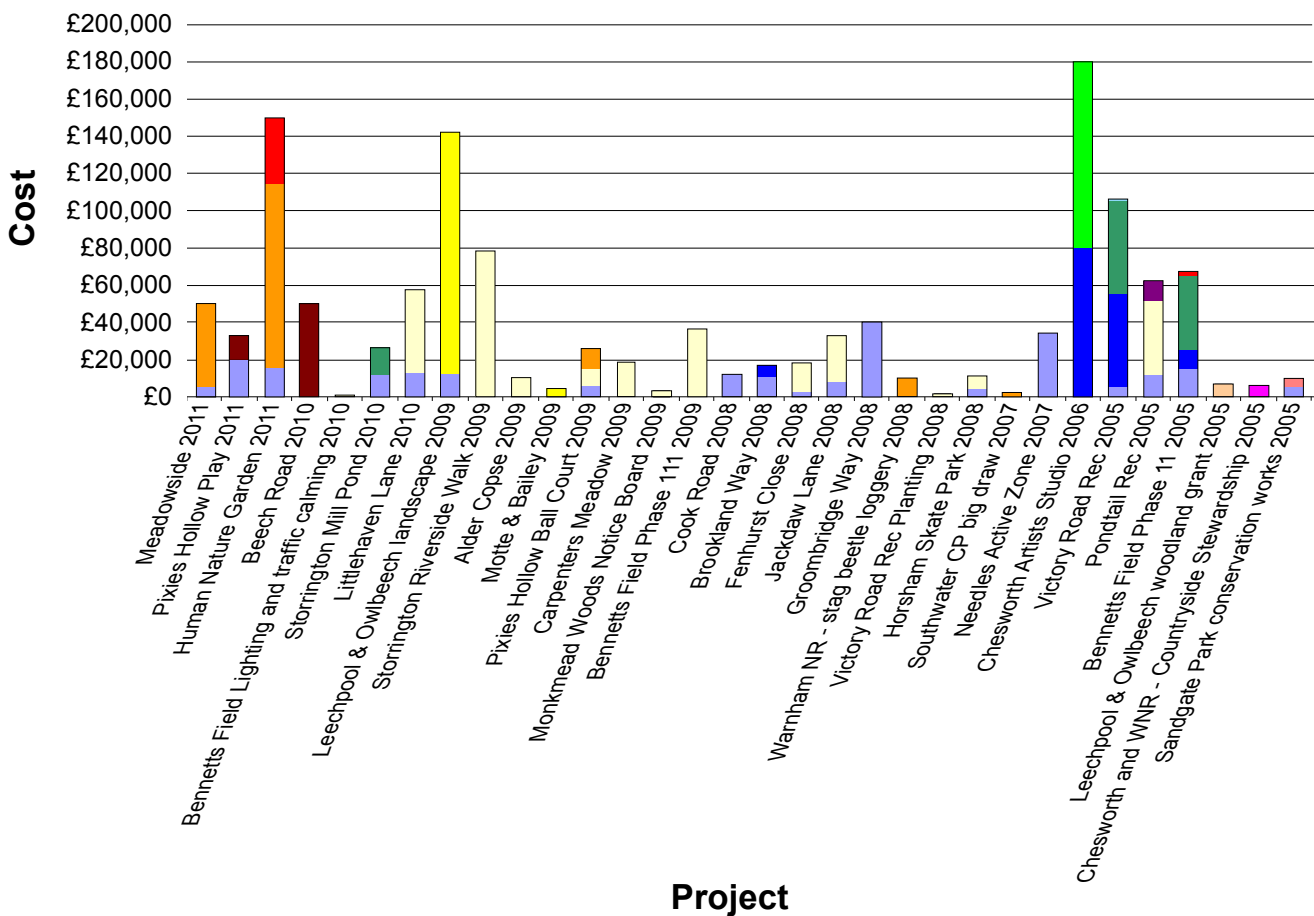


*Chesworth Farm, Horsham*

## External grants

Many of the larger green space projects have been funded to a large extent through external grants. Between 2005 and 2012 over £600k (excluding section 106 contributions) was achieved in external funding by the Parks & Countryside Team and associated community groups. Just under £300k of developer contributions through the Section 106 process have been spent on green space projects.

**This graph shows the amount of external and S106 funding achieved for Parks and Countryside projects**



# Conclusions and Delivery

## Conclusion

Horsham District's Green Space Strategy takes account of all of the green spaces that the Council manages, ranging from children's play areas and sports pitches to cemeteries and nature reserves. The strategy has a key focus on how the Council engages with the local community to provide for local needs, providing cost effective and well managed facilities. It covers strategic aims, management proposals and funding sources and is a key document to be used in consideration of future funding and resource requirements.

The Green Space Strategy looks at how the Council works with casual and regular visitors, sports users, voluntary groups, building on quality and wildlife conservation value, methods for sustaining safety standards and improving value for money while keeping the customer at the heart of what it does.

The Draft Green Space Strategy was published for consultation in Spring 2013 and feedback was received by volunteer groups, users, parish and neighbourhood councils. Final amendments were made in Autumn 2013 and it was adopted by cabinet in November 2013.

Copies of the Green Space Strategy and the relevant appendices are available to view on the Council's website, at the Council's Offices, libraries and Storrington Help Point.

## Delivery

The aims and objectives will be transferred to an action plan which will be implemented by the District Council's Parks and Countryside department. It is anticipated that the action plan will be reviewed every four years and a progress report written and published online.

Anyone wanting to respond to the strategy can do so by visiting the Council's website ([www.horsham.gov.uk](http://www.horsham.gov.uk)) or alternatively write to:

Parks and Countryside,  
Horsham District Council,  
Park North,  
North Street,  
Horsham,  
West Sussex  
RH12 1RL  
or email [parcs@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:parcs@horsham.gov.uk).





*Wild flowers Horsham Park*

This document is available in alternative formats upon request, such as large print, electronically or in community languages. Please contact Parks and Countryside on [parks@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:parks@horsham.gov.uk) or telephone 01403 215256 (Text Relay calls welcome)

