

Memo (Agenda September 2019)

To: Parish Councillors

c.c: Nigel Jupp (County Councillor) & Toni Bradnum (District Councillor)

From: Sarah Hall

Date: 20th July 2019 (week commencing 15th July 2019)

Re: COUNCILLORS' BRIEFING NOTE

I have outlined below a number of recent developments for your information.

(1) **Planning Applications Issued**

Number	Applicant & Reason	Consultation Closes	NPC Meeting
DC/11/1198 (amended description & address)	Conversion of redundant milking parlour building to 1no. residential dwelling and conversion of cattle shed to ancillary garage, workshop and storage space Buildings to the south of New Brook Farm, Nuthurst Road, Maplehurst	29.07.2019	Planning 17.07.2019
DC/19/1389 15.07.2019	Change of use from (A4) pub to 3. No (C3) flats on ground floor Dun Horse Inn, Brighton Road, Mannings Heath	7 th August 2019	Planning 31.07.2019

(2) **HDC Decisions**

Number	Applicant & Reason	PC Observation	HDC Decision
DC/19/1049	Refurbishment and erection of a single storey front and rear extension to existing poolhouse Bulls Farm, Sedgwick Lane, Horsham	No objection with conditions	HDC Permitted

(3) **Appeals**

Number	Applicant & Reason	PI Decision
	No new appeals lodged and no updates	

(4) **Enforcement Numbers**

Number	Nature of Complaint	Date	HDC Action
EN/19/0289 08/07/2019	Alleged – Untidy Site Gold Properties Development Site, Vaughan Copse, Mannings Heath		Case Closed – Breach Ceased

Clerks Update

- Clerk registered with HMRC for 'Making Tax Digital'
- WSCC have cut back the vegetation blocking the footpath on the A281 opposite Church Road
- Disclaimer notices have been erected on the gates to the children's playground
- The annual RoSPA report has been received and the Parish Council are actioning items requiring attention.
- The faulty street light on the junction of Park Lane and Nuthurst Street, Maplehurst has been reported to SSE.

Correspondence

Email dated 15th July 2019, from Strategic Planning

Feed Back – Parish Council Training 6th June 2019

Response to Feedback

Thank you very much for attending the Parish Council Training event held at Horsham District Council offices on 6th June 2019. We hope you enjoyed the session and found it useful and informative.

Thank you, also, for your participation and co-operation in the Local Plan Workshop. It is always helpful to hear your views and to gain an insight into the concerns specific to your parish or neighbourhood.

As you will know from the presentations, Horsham District Council is currently conducting a Local Plan Review. The feedback you gave in the workshop was noted by the assigned officer on your table and is being circulated amongst the Strategic Planning team. This feedback will help to inform the emerging local plan and evidence base as we move forward through the local plan review process.

We promised to provide some feedback on the Local Plan workshop. We have done this by summarising the key points you raised at the meeting with an adjoining response detailing what evidence base work we are currently undertaking and how your views are being taken into account. The below details are not exhaustive but we have tried to cover as many issues raised as possible.

Infrastructure Provision and Local Services/Facilities

WHAT YOU TOLD US

- Transport – we need better links (parking for commuters – see employment section below)
- We need better connectivity e.g. Park & Ride and cycling improvements
- Rural broadband is very poor in some parts of the district
- Better access to services – hospitals, GP, etc.
- Concerns over water supply and sewerage
- We need more hubs, youth clubs
- Concern over the loss of banks and lack of shops

WHAT WE ARE DOING

- The Council has been meeting with a wide range of infrastructure providers to help understand how infrastructure including education, healthcare and transport is delivered in the district and what might be needed in the future.
- The information we learn from our conversations about the new infrastructure that is needed will be set out in a document called an Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP). This will be an important document forming part of the evidence base in the Local Plan Review.
- Money to provide for new infrastructure is usually collected through community infrastructure levy (CIL) payments. On larger schemes infrastructure may be delivered through legal (S106) agreements rather than through CIL.
- The Council is allowed to ask for sufficient infrastructure to meet the needs arising from the new development. We cannot ask developers to provide infrastructure to meet any existing shortfalls that may exist.
- Regarding water supply and sewerage, the Council is, jointly with other authorities in Sussex and Surrey commissioning study which will look at how water and sewerage needs can be met if new development

comes forward in the future. We are also meeting with the local water companies which deal with our water supplies and sewage treatment.

- The Council acknowledges that some parts of the district are not well served by broadband. The current Local Plan already seeks to ensure that broadband is provided or if this is not currently available that there is provision to ensure connection can be made in the future, and this will continue. We are also working with a range of partners including West Sussex County Council to ensure broadband is provided. Some further information is available here: [West Sussex Broadband](#)

Housing

WHAT YOU TOLD US

- We need to do more to ensure there is sufficient housing for older people, including single storey dwellings, small homes for downsizers and care homes.
- There seems to be an over-provision of large (4/5 bed) homes.
- We should ensure we require the right amount and types of affordable housing
 - What is the need and what type is most appropriate?
 - How do we ensure this is prioritised for people in the community?
- There should be a Barn Conversion policy
- More starter homes needed

WHAT WE ARE DOING

- As part of our work to prepare a Local Plan, the Council is carrying out a study called a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) to understand what size of houses we need, how much affordable housing we need and how we can meet the needs of different groups of the population including older people and young families. This information will be used in policies to ensure that when new houses are built the right types are provided.
- The Council realises that a policy on barn conversions and other rural buildings would be beneficial. As part of the Local Plan Review our Issues & Options document, published in April 2018, a draft new policy called *Conversion of Existing Agricultural Buildings to Other Uses* was published. The responses to this consultation are being reviewed and the outcome will be taken forward this policy in the emerging local plan.

Employment

WHAT YOU TOLD US

- We need more jobs for younger people
- We need more joined up thinking with regards to businesses, shops, houses
- We should be providing better opportunities within the district thereby reducing the need to travel
- Better parking for commuters

WHAT WE ARE DOING

- As part of our work to prepare a Local Plan, the Council is carrying out a study called an Economic Growth Assessment (EGA). This work will look at Horsham, Crawley and Mid Sussex and will help us to understand
 - The current position of the local market
 - How local economies might change by 2036
 - How much new land is needed to provide new local jobs
 - What existing areas we need to protect
 - What type of employment land is need
- The outcome of this study will help us to make sure our updated planning policies can protect existing business sites / areas and allow current businesses to grow.
- Commuter Parking: Parking guidance is published by the highways authority (West Sussex County Council) and is used as a *starting point* when considering applications. We will endeavour to work with West Sussex County Council and other relevant bodies to help ensure appropriate parking is provided and to address any particular issues that arise.

Design and Preserving the Character of the District

WHAT YOU TOLD US

- Need to promote a greater sense of place within individual settlements
- Villages and Parishes need to retain their identities.
- Design Codes specific to villages/settlements could reflect the character of the location, increasing a sense of identity
- Location of new homes to maintain 'strategic gap'
- Protection of rural assets such as landscapes
- Protection of historic / cultural assets
- Parking on housing developments insufficient leading to on street parking
- Adequate provision of bin stores within new development schemes
- New roads should be designed with cycle lane to promote cycle routes

WHAT WE ARE DOING

- The Council is updating a number of important documents which form part of the Evidence Base of the Local Plan Review. These include the Landscape Capacity Assessment, which is an analysis of the capacity an area has for employment and housing development and what mitigation might be needed if development did come forward.
- The need to protect the distinctiveness of the district is already set out in the current local plan. This includes the character of towns and villages, separation of the towns and villages and the need to protect the historic character.
- We are aware that parking on developments is an important issue. Parking Guidance is published as West Sussex County Council and this Council uses this as a *starting point* when considering applications. Parking is already a consideration in the current Local Plan and this will be continued. We will also consider whether it is appropriate to make greater reference to the importance of the layout of a scheme and any parking provision.
- Bin storage is already addressed in Policy 33 (point 8). As part of the Local Plan Review process we will consider given to whether the wording could be strengthened.

Email dated 15th July 2019, from WSCC

Thank you - Downs Link bid success

As you may have heard by now, I'm pleased to say we were successful with our bid for £558,000 for all-weather surfacing on the Downs Link!

Your letter of support earlier this year really helped to show the impact and benefit that the project will bring and helped to strengthen our case, so thank you. The new surface will drain more easily and be suitable for walking, cycling and horse-riding, including in winter, which will boost visitor numbers and help the rural economy through promotion via [Experience West Sussex](#).

The sections that will be improved will be in Horsham District, with works commencing this autumn. Please do look out for announcements as to when the surfacing will be taking place and spread the word, as it may impact journeys – we will be sharing the information [in](#) as many ways as possible to make sure people know.

I've attached a map of the route improvements, and a copy of the press release announcing the successful bid. If you'd like any other details, do please get in touch.

Boost for cyclists, walkers, equestrians and county's rural economy: £558,000 award for all-weather Downs Link surface

Cyclists, walkers and horse riders will be celebrating news of a £558,000 award for all-weather surfacing on the Downs Link.

The council's successful European Union funding bid will enable surface improvements along five sections of the route. The old, disused railway and public bridleway runs from Guildford to Shoreham and connects with the North Downs Way and South Downs Way National Trails. These sections are currently harder to use in the winter due to water logging and condition assessments and bridleway users highlighted the need for improvement.

The new, unbound surface will drain more easily and be suitable for walking, cycling and horse-riding, including in winter, boosting visitor numbers and, in turn, the rural economy.

The £558,000 is from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, which aims to develop rural tourism by encouraging more people to visit, stay longer and benefit the local, rural economy. The Brexit situation will have no impact on the award (see also notes to editors).

Deborah Urquhart, county council Cabinet Member for the Environment, said: "This funding is superb news, enabling us to improve the Downs Link so we can do even more to encourage sustainable transport and provide a boost for the county's rural economy, too.

"It comes at the start of national [Bike Week](#) and just days after we launched our online [climate change campaign](#) (see notes to editors). The improved off-road route will provide an excellent, family-friendly, free facility so people can get outside and enjoy the benefits of the West Sussex countryside.

"Once completed, the upgraded route and interlinking towns, villages and businesses will be promoted to attract visitors from outside of the usual tourism season of May to October and benefit the local economy."

The promotion and marketing will be coordinated through the [Experience West Sussex](#) tourism initiative, which is led by the Experience West Sussex partnership – a jointly funded tourism partnership formed by the councils of West Sussex.

The works are due to be delivered in two phases, over 2019 and 2020, with a November 2020 deadline.

Bike Week: some cycling facts

- West Sussex Highways has provided a total of 5.8km of cycle path in the 2018-2019 financial year (exceeding the 5.75km target).
- You can find maps of on and off-road cycle routes online here [online cycling information](#)
- You can also use our [Cycle Journey Planner](#) to find the best way to get around the county, and beyond, on two wheels. You can choose a fast route, a quiet route or a balance of both.
- See [walking and cycling strategy](#) for lots more information about the county council's approach to sustainable transport

Notes to editors

- Much of the Downs Link is in the Horsham district. It is a major strategic route, about 59km long, which largely follows an old disused railway and is a popular shared use path (walkers, cyclist and equestrians) running from Guildford to Shoreham-by-Sea.
- The UK government [has guaranteed](#) that any projects where funding has been agreed before the end of 2020 will be funded for their full lifetime. Therefore, in the event the UK leaves the EU with no deal, the UK government would fund any remaining payments due after March 2019. This would ensure continued funding for these projects until they finish.
- Experience West Sussex (EWS) is a tourism initiative, primarily promoted through a website and social media campaign, which aim to showcase to residents and visitors things to do within the county so that they can

plan activities and days out.

- EWS is now in its fourth year and has amassed a social media following of around 40,000. There are currently more than 300 businesses featured on the website, and there is a highly-engaged audience of 2,000 email subscribers.
- The 2018 digital marketing campaign resulted in an economic impact of around £2.4million to the local economy. This digital campaign is delivered as part of a wider Experience West Sussex Partnership of local authorities, including the county council, who work together to share best practice, and provide leadership in the promotion and support of tourism.
- The county council's climate change campaign, and the West Sussex Climate Pledge, asks everyone in the county to commit to make small changes in key areas: make low carbon journeys – reducing carbon emissions and improving air quality; save water and energy – conserving the resources around us and using for renewable energy sources where possible; pass on plastic – avoiding single-use plastics and recycle wherever possible; shop local – buying local produce, from local stores, to support the economy and cut down on the distance goods are transported; fight against food waste – avoiding the time and energy it takes to produce food that is then wasted and the cost and environmental impact of its disposal.
- People can find out more and make their pledge by visiting www.westsussex.gov.uk/maketheclimatepledge, searching for the Facebook group 'WS Climate Pledge', searching for #WSClimatePledge or following @WSClimatePledge on Twitter.

Email dated 16th July 2019, from SSALC
SSALC Weekly Bulletin & Training Events

Please advise the Clerk if you would like to attend any of the training events.

NALC Annual Conference & Exhibition 2019 – Book Now!

Double Tree by Hilton Hotel, Milton Keynes, 28-29 October 2019

NALC's Annual Conference and Exhibition 2019 is an essential event for anyone interested in the role of local councils in strengthening their communities. So join them and other parts of the public, private and voluntary sectors to discuss the key policy issues of the moment. There will be exciting workshop sessions on rural issues, youth engagement, council performance, cyber-crime and investment projects (with more to be confirmed). There will also be prominent keynote speakers, a full exhibition catering for your council's needs, the [Star Council Awards](#) dinner and prize giving, as well as a networking drinks reception!

[Click here](#) to book and for more information!

Latest News

For regular news updates please visit
www.ssalc.co.uk

Toilets Bill

The [Non-Domestic Rating \(Public Lavatories\) Bill](#) had its Second Reading in the House of Lords on 10 July. This

is the legislation which will provide mandatory relief from business rates and save around £6m and safeguard 4000 public conveniences; as you know this has been one of NALCs key campaigns.

The Bill received cross-party support and Lord Bourne and Baroness Pinnock specifically mentioned local (parish and town) councils and NALC.

There will be further updates as the Bill progresses.

Independent review of the local government audit

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) have launched an independent review of a local government audit, with Secretary of State, James Brokenshire, stating earlier this week that this was a [strategic priority for his Ministry](#).

The review will examine the existing purpose, scope and quality of statutory audits of local authorities in England and the supporting regulatory framework, and will be led by Sir Tony Redmond.

NALC will be engaging closely with the Ministry and review team to feed in our sectors experience and views and will keep you updated.

Upcoming Training & Events

COMING UP IN SEPTEMBER!

Appraisals & HR Workshop

Tuesday 3rd September 2019 - 1000 until 1300

Sackville House, Lewes, BN7 2FZ

[further details & booking form](#)

Budget Planning & Precept Setting Workshop

Wednesday 4th September 2019 - 1000 until 1300

Sackville House, Lewes, BN7 2FZ

Tuesday 10th September 2019 - 1000 until 1300

Bletchingley Golf Club, Redhill

Wednesday 11th September 2019 - 1000 until 1300

Chichester Park Hotel, Chichester

[further details & booking forms](#)

Neighbourhood Planning Briefing & Awareness

Thursday 5th September 2019 - 1800 until 2100

Crowne Plaza Hotel, East Grinstead

[further details & booking form](#)

***NEW* Introduction to the Planning Process**

Thursday 12th September 2019 - 1800 until 2100

Lodge Hill, Pulborough

[further details & booking form](#)

Planning Update (Surrey)

Thursday 19th September 2019 - 1800 until 2100

Mercure Boxhill, Dorking

[further details & booking form](#)

Health & Safety and Risk Assessment Workshop

Thursday 19th September 2019 - 1000 until 1600

Avisford Park Hotel, Arundel

[further details & booking form](#)

***NEW* Business Planning Workshop**

Friday 13th September 2019 - 1000 until 1530

Sackville House, Lewes

[further details & booking form](#)

Operational Management

Tuesday 24th September 2019 - 1000 until 1600

Sackville House, Lewes

[further details & booking form](#)

Legal & Finance Day

Thursday 26th September 2019 - 0930 until 1600

AMEX Stadium, Brighton

[further details & booking form](#)

Email dated 17th July 2019, from NALC
NALC Newsletter



NALC calls for local councils to sign the Tree Charter

NALC has today urged all local (parish and town) councils to sign up to the Tree Charter and become Charter Branches.

[Continue reading](#)



Local councils supporting rural community businesses

NALC has welcomed recognition by the **Plunkett Foundation** that local councils can play an important role in supporting the creation of community businesses.

Continue reading



NALC achieves Cyber Essentials certification

NALC is proud to announce successful accreditation to the Cyber Essentials Scheme, demonstrating our commitment to data and cybersecurity.

Continue reading



Register your place today and save 20%
NALC's Annual Conference is an essential event for anyone interested in the role of local councils plays in strengthening their communities.

Continue reading

Member updates

[Chief executive's blog](#)

[Minutes for the Finance and Scrutiny Committee on 4 June 2019](#)

[New consultation response on the *House of Lords rural economy report*](#)

[Guest blog by Professor Jane Wills on growing local councils in Cornwall](#)

Email dated 17th July 2019, from HALC

Draft Minutes of the Annual Meeting of HALC, Tuesday 25 June 2019

1.0 Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Summary: 13 of the 32 Parish Councils and one of the three Neighbourhood Councils were represented.

2.0 Election of Officers of HALC

2.1 Chairman – Philip Baxter proposed Terry Oliver as Chairman, **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2.2 Vice Chairman – Terry Oliver proposed Philip Baxter as Vice Chairman, **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2.3 Secretary – Terry Oliver proposed Beverley Bell as Secretary, **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2.4 Treasurer – Terry Oliver nominated Susie Fischel as Treasurer, **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3.0 Election of Representatives on Outside Bodies:

- Standards Committee

Philip Baxter agreed to continue as Parish representative for the Standards Committee.

There is one vacancy on the Standards Committee. A recruitment pack had been circulated. There were four expressions of interest, and only one candidate was available to attend this meeting. It was AGREED that HALC would nominate all four candidates to HDC, who will request CVs, interview candidates and make their selection.

- WSALC (Terry Oliver, Philip Baxter)
- Sussex/Surrey ALC (Terry Oliver)
- Community Safety Partnership (Terry Oliver, Philip Baxter)
- CPRE (Susie Fischel)
- CLC (North – Michael Cockerill, South – Is Allen, Joyce Shaw)

4.0 Update from Sussex Police

4.1 PCSO Erica Baxter said the Neighbourhood Policing team have been working with communities to deliver Speedwatch and are currently working on sites in Bramber, Upper Beeding and Rusper. Concerns were raised about parking issues on new developments and it was AGREED that HALC would raise this at the next JAG meeting. **Action: Terry Oliver**

4.2 The Horsham District Rural Initiative is working to ensure that rural areas are supported by local Policing. The aim is to improve communication, all Parish Councils have been visited and there is a 4 – 6 weekly news bulletin.

5.0 Guest Speaker, Cllr Keith Budden, Chairman of East Hampshire District Council to discuss General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

5.1 Cllr Budden said he has been a Parish Councillor for 14 years, a District Councillor for four years and is now Chairman of East Hampshire District Council. His business is GDPR consultancy. GDPR entered into force on 25 May 2018. It was adopted across Europe, so the rules are the same. Post Brexit, everything Councils have done for GDPR will continue. Across Europe there have been £57 million paid in fines, some £51 million of which were levied against Google, in France.

5.2 There have been three significant changes for Councils with GDPR:

- Parish Councils and individual Parish Councillors must register annually with the Information Commissioner's Office. The fee for Parish Councillors' registration has now been waived. Cllr Budden advised that Parish Clerks should seek a signed undertaking from Councillors to confirm that they had destroyed any Council correspondence that related to individuals and which they might otherwise have kept, especially in digital form on their own computers and similar, as not only do they no longer have the right to hold it without reason valid in data protection law, their personal computers could be seized in the event of an investigation. The onus is on individual Councillors to get registered, but Clerks can advise them. It is important that all Parish Councillors have a Parish Council email address and do not use their personal email for Council work, as there is more awareness now of Data Subject Access Requests by members of the public and personal data storage devices could be subject to seizure and inspection if personal data on individuals, gained as a consequence of conducting Council business, is retained on them.
- A Data Subject Access Request can be made to any Parish Councillor, formally or informally (for example, in the course of general conversation) and the request must be acted upon within 32 days (one calendar month starting the day after receipt of the request). The request does not have to be in writing; and the time starts straight away. Councillors should notify their Clerk(s) straight away if they receive a request. Reasonable proof that the person is who they say they are may be sought but the request must be acted upon without waiting for such proof. Be aware of the rise in "no win, no fee" claims. There is insufficient caselaw to limit claims. Remember to redact personal contact details. Requests must be reasonable. Set a time limit for looking for information, for example 10 hours of Clerk time and 3 hours of Councillor time might be considered reasonable for a Council to produce what it has been able to find in that time – and so, reduce the risk of being sued.

5.3 GDPR has significant implications for those who use CCTV. Anyone wanting images of themselves from a CCTV recording must now provide a recent photo of him or herself and a timeframe for the event. However, if the CCTV recording contains pictures of people other than the data subject, it would be unwise to pass that to the data subject – because it would infringe the data protection rights of those other people. In such circumstance, it would be preferable to pass the CCTV recording only to the Police.

5.4 Be careful with social media on what you like or re-tweet.

6.0 Approval of Minutes of the Meeting on 25 March 2019.

6.1 It was AGREED that the minutes should be approved and signed as a correct record.

7.0 Matters arising from item 6.0 – not on the agenda below.

7.1 Beverley contacted the Chief Executive of HDC to raise HALC's concern about the proposed re-structuring of HDC's Planning Committees. The response is reproduced at Annex 1 to these Minutes. HDC has kept the Planning Committee structure as it currently is for the next year. The Chairman will seek a meeting with HDC's Chief Executive to discuss this further.

Action: Terry Oliver, Philip Baxter

8.0 SSALC Training Programme 2019

8.1 Beverley gave a synopsis of the SSALC training programme 2019 and reminded members that their Clerk can give them the log in details for the SSALC website.

8.2 Terry Oliver said SSALC has launched the training passport for new Councillors in the Horsham district to log their training and the Council with the most completed passports will win an award.

9.0 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies:

9.1 Standards Committee – Met on 12 June and discussed the Local Government Ethical Standards Report. HDC is looking for a single Code of Conduct to be adopted by all Councils.

9.2 WSALC – The board discussed Policing, health and wellbeing, NALC, elections, South Downs National Park, SLCC update.

9.3 SSALC – Attended SERCAF meeting of the 9 County Associations on the Isle of Wight.

9.4 Community Safety Partnership – next meeting 09 July 2019.

9.5 CPRE – to be guest speaker at our next meeting.

9.6 CLC – North Horsham discussed the Community Initiative Fund.

10.0 Members Questions and Comments.

10.1 Wiston Parish Council would like a visit from HALC.

Action: Terry Oliver/Philip Baxter

10.2 Members would like a Horsham District Conference delivered on a Saturday morning.

Action: Beverley Bell

11.0 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 12 September 2019 Beeson House, Southwater

Guest Speaker: Mr Ian Hare, Chairman Pulborough Parish Council to talk about Footpath Charter, and Dr Roger Smith CPRE._

Meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Annexe 1

HDC Chief Executive said: There appears to be a degree of misunderstanding circulating about the review of Horsham District Council's "Review of the Functions, Responsibilities and Constitution of Planning Committees". The Governance Committee started this review back in June 2018 and has reported updates at each bi-monthly meeting of the Governance Committee since. These updates are available on the Council's website. The Committee commissioned a report from the Planning Advisory Service to provide independent professional advice to inform recommendations "in time to allow changes, if any were proposed, to be implemented from May 2019". The Governance Committee considered its final recommendations at a meeting on 19th March 2019. The report containing the recommendations is again available on the public website. The meeting you refer to on 24th April is in fact a Council meeting which will consider the Governance Committee's recommendations "in time to allow changes to be implemented from May 2019" as set out at the start of the review. I'm afraid that I'm unable to assist with your request for a deferral of Council's decision for three reasons;

(i) It is not within the gift of the Chief Executive to defer the decision;

(ii) The governance process of the Local Planning Authority is a matter for members of the relevant Planning Authority to determine;

(iii) This process has been informed by independent professional advice and conducted through public meetings since June 2018 and there has been ample opportunity to comment on the process. Indeed some Parish Councillors have done so.

In closing, I would say that the committee structure recommended by the Planning Advisory Service is adopted by the majority of councils in England and is regarded as best practice. Whether Horsham Members agree with that recommendation is another matter. It is also probably worth noting that the recommendations also include a proposal to increase the time allocated to Parish and Neighbourhood Councils to speak at Planning Committees to five minutes. Parish Councils would obviously benefit from this proposal if Council accepts the recommendations of the Governance Committee.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 12 September 2019 at 7.30pm at Beeson House, Southwater.

It will be a busy meeting with three guest speakers:

- *Horsham District Council Strategic Planning*
Horsham District Council are in the process of undertaking the review of the Horsham District Planning Framework. This presentation will set out some information about the work which is ongoing to inform this process. It will also set out some information on the latest housing figures which have been set by the government's new housing methodology and the work that the Council is undertaking in addressing this challenge.
- *Mr Ian Hare, Chairman Pulborough Parish Council*
Footpath Charter
- *Dr Roger Smith*
CPRE Update

As usual there will be time for informal networking from 7.00pm over tea/coffee.

Email dated 19th July 2019, from HDC
HDC's Health & Wellbeing Newsletter

Please find a link below to HDC's Health & Wellbeing Newsletter July 2019;

<https://www.nuthurstparishcouncil.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/HDC-Health-and-Wellbeing-July-newsletter.pdf>

Email dated 19th July 2019, from NALC
Chief Executives Bulletin

New LGA chairman to address NALC conference

I'm delighted to announce that the new chairman of the Local Government Association (LGA), Cllr James Jamieson, has agreed to give a keynote speech to our annual conference in October. The leader of Central Bedfordshire Council took over from Lord Gary Porter just two weeks ago at LGA's own conference in Bournemouth, and while we're currently liaising over his complicated diary, I'm really looking forward to hearing James set out his vision for closer working across the tiers, building positive relationships and the future of local government. If you haven't booked your places yet, you can check out the brilliant programme and do so [here](#) – last year sold out so I would encourage you to book soon!

NALC in Parliament

As Parliament starts to wind down for the Summer recess (did it ever really wind up, other than for Brexit?!),

NALC was at two events in Parliament this week. Our head of policy and communications, Justin Griggs, was at the Summer reception of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for local government, whose secretariat support is provided by think tank Local Government Information Unit (LGIU). You can listen again to the speech by James Brokenshire MP on the [LGIU podcast](#), and read the report launched at the event by their [Local Finance Taskforce: A roadmap to a sustainable future](#). Cllr Sue Baxter, our chairman, was at a meeting of the APPG for reform, decentralisation and devolution in the UK, whose chairman is Andrew Lewer, MP for South Northamptonshire. The meeting considered the LGA's [The Future of Non-Metropolitan England; The freedom to lead local places](#), and during the discussion Sue said we recognise the challenges set out in the report, support many of the recommendations, and that local councils are actually already part of the solution through our growing our role despite the challenges facing devolution. We will continue to stay in touch with Andrew and his APPG, as well as LGA, on this issue.

Partnerships with BHIB Councils Insurance and CCLA

I had very good meetings this week with two of our key partners, [BHIB Councils Insurance](#) and [CCLA](#) and it was great to hear from Michelle South (who has been nominated for Insurance Broker of the Year and Risk Professional of the Year in the Women In Insurance Awards 2019 – good luck!) about their exciting plans to help councils with cybersecurity and asset management; and talk to the new CCLA chief executive, Peter Hugh Smith, about continued close working and mutual support.

NALC Star Council Awards judging

Not long to wait now until we announce the finalists of our very own Oscars – NALC's Star Councils 2019. The panel of judges met at our offices on 17 July to deliberate over a record number of entries across the five categories, hear what they had to say in the series of short videos on our Twitter [@nalc](#). Look out for more announcements next week!

RSA report backs call for rural strategy

The Royal Society of Arts (RSA) Food, Farming and Countryside Commission made strong calls for a Government rural strategy when it published its report [Our Future In The Land](#) this week. The report was produced by RSA director, Sue Pritchard, who is participating in the Strengthening rural communities workshop at our annual conference. I was particularly pleased to see the report build on their interim report which highlighted the important role of local councils, with the final report making recommendations covering neighbourhood planning, sustainable development and giving primacy to homes being built and purchased for permanent residence. You can read more in the news story [here](#).

NALC Open Day

On 16 July we welcomed colleagues from Devon, Lincolnshire, West Yorkshire, Worcestershire, and Warwickshire and the West Midlands to the NALC offices for our latest induction day. These days are run to enable new staff at county associations, councillors on committees as well as new member councils to meet our staff, put names to faces as well as finding out more about our work. Our next induction day will be held 17 October 2019, please contact farhana.miah@nalc.gov.uk for more information and to book a place.

CiLCA recognised trainers

As you know, NALC works closely with other partners on the Improvement and Development Board (IDB) regarding CiLCA (Certificate in Local Council Administration), including on support and updating for 'recognised trainers'. The names recognised on this list are the only trainers who can deliver CiLCA training; this has recently been updated on our website and can be accessed [here](#).

Out and about

Chris Borg, policy and development manager, joined our East Riding and Northern Lincolnshire Local Councils' Association (ERNLLCA) colleagues on 17 July to engage with councils about membership, and also for a meeting of their district branch where Chris was on hand to provide advice on a policy motion on retrospective planning applications, which I'm sure will be winging its way to our Policy Committee quite soon!

Peer review

On 19 July NALC and LGA hosted a peer review briefing session at NALC's offices. Attendees joined us from a range of larger local councils to become the first-ever national peer review team for the local council sector. We will be piloting the new peer review approach – an ambition set out in the Improvement and Development Strategy – with Chippenham Town Council on September 2019.

And finally...

It's been a mixed week for our campaign to set up councils in unparished areas. Unfortunately, though not unexpectedly, Tower Hamlets Council decided not to set up a new council in Spitalfields – campaigners are considering their next steps (and won't be giving up!), and we're doing likewise about changes needed to the process such as the introduction of mandatory referendums, a right of appeal and the final decision taken away from principal authorities. The more positive news is residents in **Maidenhead** and also **Windsor** has started petitions for new two new town councils, watch this space! And Justin was in Birmingham on 16 July at a meeting of the Moseley Regeneration Group who are exploring setting up a new council, where he and John Crossling from the Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils answered questions ranging from budgets and staffing to training and the general power of competence, and innovation and good practice.