Horley Town Council



Annual Report 2023-2024



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Published May 2024

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Introduction

This Annual Report has been prepared by Horley Town Council and we hope you will find it gives an informative overview into our business and other activities over the past year. The publication includes a report from the Council Chairman & Town Mayor, together with reports from the Town Council's Committee Chairs and lead Finance Member. The report further provides detailed information and statistics. At the time of producing this Annual Report, our accounts for 2023/24 are not yet available, however, we have included information relating to the financial year 2022/23. The unaudited accounts for 2023/24 will be made available to the public for inspection in July 2024. We expect to publish the audited Annual Return on our website in October 2024.

This year the Annual Town Public Forum will be held on 17 May 2024. The meeting is open to Horley residents to receive council reports and information from the three tier authorities along with annual updates from other community groups and organisations we support. It also enables electors to have their say on any matters of particular interest or to raise any local issues, relevant to the County, Borough or Town Councils.

Following the Local Government elections held in May 2023, it was nice to welcome both new and returning members for the current administration and we wish them well in their role of public office. The Town Council has achieved many of its objectives in the past 12 months and moving steadily ahead with key priorities as set out in our five year <u>Town Plan 2022-2027</u> We are very proud of our many successes so far and have also been very fortunate to secure extra funding through various schemes run by the principal authorities to deliver a variety of community projects and these are featured in more detail later in this Annual Report.

The Horley Town Council website is kept updated with news items and other important communications as well as Council Agenda and Minutes plus a variety of community and business information. We have included further a list of all Town Councillors and their representation on Committees and Outside Bodies in 2023/24 and an electronic version of the Annual Report is also available from our website <u>www.horleysurrey-tc.gov.uk</u> If you have any queries relating to the contents of this Annual Report, then please contact the Town Council Offices at:

92 Albert Road, Horley RH6 7HZ

Telephone: 01293 784765 Email: <u>town.clerk@horleytown.com</u> Kind regards and best wishes

Jon Walsh

Joan Walsh, Town Clerk March 2024 The Town Council is administered as a first-tier Local Government Authority in an area whose County Authority responsibilities are maintained by Surrey Council and whose Borough Council responsibilities are maintained by Reigate & Banstead Borough Council.

At the last census (2021) there were 27,400 people living within the boundary of this Town Council of which 20,142 are registered electors as of April 2024.

The Precept is collected on the Town Council's behalf by Reigate & Banstead Borough Council. For the fiscal year 2023/24, it is set at £525,016. This means that the Town element of Council Tax will be an average annual amount of £47.76 per household, representing an annual increase of £6.25 per Band D property (+ 15.7%). This figure is well below the National Average figure for Town and Parish Councils which last year was £ 71.86.

The main responsibilities of the Town Council are:

Edmonds Community Hall (Albert Rooms) Lettings	Allotments (Church Road & Langshott)	Children's Playgrounds	Christmas Tree (Town Centre)	Horley Recreation Ground
Church Meadows	Court Lodge Fields	Emlyn Meadows	Football Pitch Hire at Court Lodge Playing Fields	Hanging Baskets & Town Centre Planters
Horley in Bloom	'Café In The Park' (Horley Recreation Ground)	Innes Sports Pavilion (Court Lodge Playing Fields)	Memorial Gardens	Michael Crescent Centenary Park
Planning and Development Consultation	Tennis Courts	Town Guide	War Memorial	Working in Partnership with Surrey County Council
Partners the Hor Manag	ley Town Reigate &	ing in (distrib hip with email a Banstead version a	nd nanor	and Social orking

During the financial year 2023/24, the Town Council has been engaged in several major projects, some of which have been successfully implemented or are ongoing. In many cases, these projects were achieved from substantial grant funding, sought from the following two main sources:

- 1. Successful bids made to Reigate & Banstead Borough Council, from funds made available by the Borough Council which were sourced from the R&B Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL SIP 2 Scheme) after the applications were supported by residents' surveys carried out previously. To note, CIL is a charge which can be levied by the Borough Council on building developers to help deliver infrastructure to support development in the local area.
- 2. Successful bids made to Surrey County Council, through the SCC Your Fund Surrey Small Community Projects Fund which enables county councillors to pledge allocated funds to support a variety of community projects (further details below). Some of these grant applications did necessitate matched funding from the Town Council's own resources and other projects have been financed by existing reserves/precept (as indicated).

Replacement Playground Fencing at Horley Parks:

The playgrounds at Court Lodge and the Horley Recreation Ground have had their existing aged fencing replaced with modern bow top railings (as shown in the photographs below).



Both of these projects were awarded to The Havering Fencing Company Ltd who were selected from several competitive quotations received. The total cost was £32,880 (£16,280 + £16,600) and funded by the SCC Your Fund Surrey Small Community Projects Fund with the kind support of Cllr Andy Lynch and Cllr Jordan Beech respectively. The shortfall of approximately £2,000 was funded by Town Council reserves.

The final phase of perimeter fencing replacement is scheduled to take place at the Horley Recreation Ground in the next financial year 2024/25 with funding from the **R&B Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL SIP 2 Scheme)**.

Major Projects Update 2023-24 Continued

Michael Crescent Centenary Park: Former Scout Building Demolition



The building at Michael Crescent Centenary Park had shown serious deterioration in recent years and presented serious safety concerns. It was therefore demolished in September 2023. The total cost of demolition was approximately £20,000 and part-funding was met from the 'local' portion (15%) of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which the Borough Council passes to the Town Council every six months to be spent on local community projects, depending on potential income from any local development.

The park will be improved later this year with the complete refurbishment of the existing playground and provision of brand new, contemporary equipment which had taken into account feedback received from an online residents' survey carried out by the Town Council. Several companies tendered for the project which was later awarded to HAGS UK Ltd. The total cost of £70,000 will be funded in full from another successful bid made by the Town Council to the **R&B Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL SIP 2 Scheme)**. Further details of progress will be published on the Town Council website at a later date.

Allotment Gardens: Church Road and Ladbroke Road, Langshott

Both allotment sites at Church Road and Langshott have had substantial improvements recently with the Church Road car park and access road at Langshott being resurfaced with new tarmac. Both projects were awarded to Tidey & Webb Ltd who were selected from several competitive quotations received. Both projects were again covered by the **R&B Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL SIP 2 Scheme),** using a grant sum of £28,170 with the remaining £3,470 funded by a portion of the Town Council's 'local' CIL receipts.



Other Projects

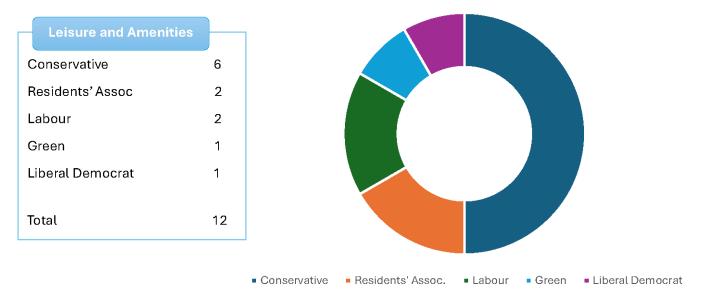
The Town Council will be embarking on another new exciting capital project later in the year, to expand the council offices building and car park at Albert Road with environmental and future sustainability enhancements, having appointed architects to draw up plans for the extension. Further information will be provided at a later date.

Town Councillors 2023-24

Horley Central North (2)			
Cecilia Hughes	LAB	cecilia.hughes@horleysurrey-tc.gov.uk	
Jerry Hudson	CON	jerry.hudson@horleysurrey-tc.gov.uk	
	Но	rley East (4)	
Jante Baird	CON	jante.baird@horleysurrey-tc.gov.uk	
Victoria Chester	GRE	victoria.chester@horleysurrey-tc.gov.uk	
Robert Marr	CON	robert.marr@horleysurrey-tc.gov.uk	
Martin Saunders	RA	martin.saunders@horleysurrey-tc.gov.uk	
	Hor	ley South (5)	
Michael Blacker	CON	michael.blacker@horleysurrey-tc.gov.uk	
Samantha Marshall	CON	samantha.marshall@horleysurrey-tc.gov.uk	
Hannah Avery	CON	hannah.avery@horleysurrey-tc.gov.uk	
Jordan Beech	CON	jordan.beech@horleysurrey-tc.gov.uk	
Lynnette Easterbrook	LAB	lynnette.easterbrook@horleysurrey-tc.gov.uk	
	Horley	Upper North (1)	
Lynne Burnham	GRE	lynne.burnham@horleysurrey-tc.gov.uk	
	Но	rley West (6)	
Keith Barlow	RA	keith.barlow@horleysurrey-tc.gov.uk	
Mike George	RA	mike.george@horleysurrey-tc.gov.uk	
Emma Fagan	RA	emma.fagan@horleysurrey-tc.gov.uk	
Tom Turner	LAB	tom.turner@horleysurrey-tc.gov.uk	
James Baker	CON	james.baker@horleysurrey-tc.gov.uk	
Steve Wotton	LIB DEM	steve.wotton@horleysurrey-tc.gov.uk	

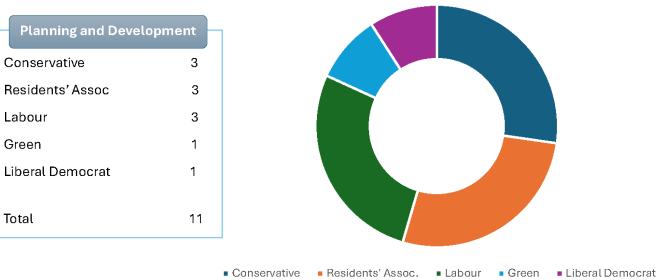
Ward	Councillor	Contact	Ward	Councillor	Contact
Horley Central North		cecilia.hughes @horleysurrey-tc.gov.uk Labour	Horley Central North		jerry.hudson @horleysurrey-tc.gov.uk Conservative
Horley East		jante.baird @horleysurrey-tc.gov.uk Conservative	Horley East		victoria.chester @horleysurrey-tc.gov.uk Green
Horley East		robert.marr @horleysurrey-tc.gov.uk Conservative	Horley East		martin.saunders @horleysurrey-tc.gov.uk Residents' Association
Horley South		michael.blacker @horleysurrey-tc.gov.uk Conservative	Horley South	R	samantha.marshall @horleysurrey-tc.gov.uk Conservative
Horley South		Hannah.avery @horleysurrey-tc.gov.uk Conservative	Horley South		Jordan.beech @horleysurrey-tc.gov.uk Conservative
Horley South		lynnette.easterbrook @horleysurrey-tc.gov.uk Labour	Horley Upper North		lynne.burnham @horleysurrey-tc.gov.uk Green
Horley West		keith.barlow @horleysurrey-tc.gov.uk Residents' Association	Horley West		mike.george @horleysurrey-tc.gov.uk Residents' Association
Horley West		emma.fagan @horleysurrey-tc.gov.uk Residents' Association	Horley West		tom.turner @horleysurrey-tc.gov.uk Labour
Horley West		james.baker @horleysurrey-tc.gov.uk Conservative	Horley West		steve.wotton @horleysurrey-tc.gov.uk Liberal Democrat

Political Balance of the Council 2023-24



Leisure & Amenities Committee

Planning & Development Committee



Conservative

Residents' Assoc.

Committee Membership 2023-24

Chairman & Town Mayor: Cllr Martin Saunders Vice-Chairman of the Council: Cllr Tom Turner

Planning & Development Committee

Hannah Avery Keith Barlow Michael Blacker Victoria Chester Lynnette Easterbrook **Mike George (Chairman)** Cecilia Hughes Jerry Hudson (Vice-Chairman) Martin Saunders Tom Turner Steve Wotton

Leisure & Amenities Committee

Hannah Avery Jante Baird (Vice-Chairman) James Baker Jordan Beech Lynne Burnham Emma Fagan Cecilia Hughes Robert Marr Samantha Marshall (Chairman) Martin Saunders Tom Turner Steve Wotton

Sub-Committee & Working Groups 2023-24

Committee, Sub-Committee and Working Groups	Councillor(s)	Reporting to	
Staff Committee	Chairman & Vice Chairman of Council, Committee Chairmen	Full Council	
Environment Working Group	Hannah Avery, Jorden Beech, Jante Baird, Michael Blacker, Victoria Chester, Lynnette Easterbrook, Mike George, Martin Saunders, Steve Wotton, Richard Bethell (Non-Councillor), Mike Humphrey (Non-Councillor)	Full Council	
Leaders' Group	Council Chairman & Vice-Chairman plus Committee Chairmen / Vice-Chairmen	Full Council / Committee concerned	
Town Plan Working Group	Robert Marr (Chairman), Mike George, Hannah Avery, Jante Baird, Victoria Chester, Lynnette Easterbrook	Full Council	
Planning Applications Working Group	Planning & Development Chairman & Vice-Chairman	Planning & Development	
Communications Working Group	Mike George, Samantha Marshall, Martin Saunders, Lynne Burnham, Lynnette Easterbrook, Jordan Beech, Jante Baird	Full Council	
Resilience Working Group	Jante Baird, Mike George, Robert Marr, Tom Turner, Keith Barlow	Full Council	
Horley in Bloom Working Group	Jante Baird, Mike George, Cecilia Hughes (plus representatives of other interested local groups and local residents)	Leisure & Amenities	

Outside Bodies 2023-24

Outside Body	Councillor(s)	Reporting to	
Horley Community Partnership	Jordan Beech Mike George (Substitute)	Full Council	
Gatwick Airport Consultative Committee (GATCOM)	Mike George Jordan Beech (Substitute)	Planning & Development	
Horley Town Management Group (HTMG)	Samantha Marshall, Tom Turner	Planning & Development	
Borough Standards Committee	Cecilia Hughes	Full Council	
Surrey Association of Local Councils (Surrey ALC)	Mike George Jordan Beech (Substitute)	Full Council	
Churchyards Committee	James Baker Mike George, Victoria Chester (Substitutes)	Leisure & Amenities	
Gatwick Greenspace Partnership	Mike George Michael Blacker (Substitute)	Leisure & Amenities	
Horley Conservation Group	Leisure & Amenities Chairman/Vice-Chairman (other members welcome to attend)	Leisure & Amenities	
Royal British Legion (Horley)	oyal British Legion (Horley) Samantha Marshall James Baker (Substitute)		
Horley Carnival Committee	rley Carnival Committee Mike George Hannah Avery (Substitute) (other members welcome to attend)		
Horley Town Council and Reigate & Banstead Borough Council Liaison Committee	Council Chairman & Vice-Chairman plus Committee Chairmen / Vice-Chairmen	Full Council	
Horley Open Spaces Advisory Committee	Leisure & Amenities Chairman & Vice- Chairman	Leisure & Amenities	
Accessibility Horley Mike George		Planning & Development	

Council Chairman's Report 2023-24

I am honoured to write this Horley Town Council Chairman's report for 2023/24. This has been my first year as Chairman and Mayor, a role for which I would like to thank the Council Members for electing me to. I feel that both the Council and Horley citizens can be proud of what we have collectively achieved.

We have built on firm foundations, and I am grateful to members of the previous administration for leaving us a Council in a solid financial and administrative position. I'd particularly like to highlight former councillor Simon Marshall who was chairman of the Leisure and Amenities Committee. Simon was a hugely impressive and hard-working councillor who made his fellow members feel empowered and trusted and I'd like to thank him for his dedication. I look forward to seeing him at many Horley events in the future.

In an era where, at the national level, political discourse often veers towards division, Horley Town Council has been a great example of constructive dialogue and unity. Our meetings, characterized by respect, adherence to the Nolan principles, and amicable debates, reflect our collective commitment to the welfare of Horley residents. I'm proud to have been Chairman of such a highly motivated and professional group of members, and I would like to thank all of them for making my role both rewarding and enjoyable.

Horley Town Council's status within a borough where most areas do not have a Town or Parish Council presents both challenges and opportunities. Many of our residents see that Reigate, Redhill, Banstead and the smaller towns pay less council tax than residents of Horley, and rightly question what they get for it. To this end, our proactive approach to securing external funding for town enhancements has been met with notable success. The dedication and expertise of our council officers, under the capable guidance of Town Clerk Joan Walsh, have been instrumental in securing funds and advancing these projects. Their hard work and professionalism in managing an increased project load, while maintaining the council's day-to-day statutory operations deserve our collective appreciation.

The importance of leveraging external funding for infrastructure improvements cannot be overstated and it's been one of my priorities this year to work with the members and officers to seek out such funds, successfully bid for them, and efficiently deliver the improvement. Successfully bidding for funds and delivering projects takes time, and we are a small council with limited resources. I'm pleased to report our officers have recognised this challenge and have embraced time-saving AI tools to aid efficient meeting planning and minute writing and are actively looking at other ways to streamline the running of the council.

I extend a heartfelt thank you to Vice-Chairman Tom Turner, whose support and guidance have been invaluable. His leadership in representing the council, particularly at community events such as Surrey Pride, has not only enriched our council's presence but also underscored our commitment to inclusivity and community engagement.

In addition to Surrey Pride, Tom and I have also represented Horley at various events in the town and further afield this year. Of note was the excellent Horley Carnival, the well-attended and expertly organised Remembrance Day parade, the many wonderful Horley Lions and Horley Association of Traders events and the beautifully creative and inspiring Horley Singers events. Horley is a very fortunate town to have many hard-working volunteer groups who bring such joy and fun to the town, as well as raising significant funds for good causes in the process. My thanks go to everyone involved in these groups and charities.

I would also like to thank the various action groups in the town who work hard to make Horley safe, clean and accessible. The Horley Sewerage Treatment Works action group have done an incredible job in both raising awareness of the disgraceful pollution of the River Mole and surrounding areas, and holding Thames Water to account for this pollution. In addition, the Horley Access Group do a great job in considering the accessibility needs of our residents, recording and reporting access issues and defects to the relevant authorities.

In closing, I extend my warmest wishes to all residents of Horley. Your spirit and engagement are the lifeblood of our town, and I am confident that together, we will continue to build a thriving and inclusive community.

With thanks,

Martin Saunders Chairman and Town Mayor March 2024

Finance Report 2023-24

This year saw some changes including the dissolving of the Finance and General Purposes Committee as it made sense for all Councillors have oversight of the Council's finances. I welcomed the opportunity to continue serving Horley as the Lead Member for Finance and I am grateful to all Councillors for their participation and commitment to maintaining Horley Town Council's prudent financial management over the last twelve months.

Financial Year 2023-24

In December 2023 Horley Town Council set the budget for the 2024/2025 financial year. After much deliberation the Council set a net budget **£ 604,096**. This represented an increase of **£6.24** per Band D property bringing the total Town element of Council Tax to an average <u>annual</u> amount of **£54.00** per household. The increase will help the Council to maintain the delivery of its services and statutory duties and the figure continues to be well below the National Average figure for Town and Parish Councils.

Sensible management of our budgets over recent years has ensured that the Council has contributed to our current sound financial position. However, inflation impacts Council costs, and the financial environment remains challenging. As a first-tier council, closest to the community, we recognise the importance of always seeking best value on behalf of residents. We are continuing to build up our general reserves and earmarked funds to allow us to make consistent progress towards achieving the objectives in our five year Town Plan 2022-27, in addition to ensuring the future maintenance of and investment in Council assets and services to support the local community and promote well-being and social cohesion.

In October 2023 we received the agreements for the four successful bids to the Reigate & Banstead Strategic CIL Infrastructure Programme. Resurfacing areas at the allotment sites has been completed and work has begun on the remaining three projects:

- ⇒ to improve community safety by replacing the perimeter railings at Horley Recreation Ground and implementing CCTV and LED lighting enhancements.
- ⇒ to improve the leisure facilities at Michael Crescent by demolishing the old scout building (demolition completed) and providing a playground upgrade; and
- \Rightarrow to focus on sustainability and providing some much needed office space with the expansion of the Town Council offices.

All these and other Council projects will, where possible, be planned to save money in the longer term

by replacing ageing infrastructure, cutting carbon emissions, and investing in low energy solutions to reduce core costs.

We were also successful, thanks to the support of our County Councillors, in securing funding from Surrey County Council to improve community safety at our parks, by installing new railings around the play areas at Horley Recreation Ground and Court Lodge Fields. The Town Council prioritises community safety by continually reviewing security measures and is committed to maintaining regular security patrols.

The Council continues to provide splendid floral displays around the town, funded in part by one of our Surrey County Councillors, and the Town Council Christmas Tree. In addition, we are taking forward more environmental activities with a roll out of wildflower planting and have increased outdoor furniture at many of our parks and open spaces. The Council will continue to support the successful annual Horley in Bloom and Photographic Competitions which will remain free of charge for residents.

The Town Council continues to support St Bartholomew's Church and has made provision for a grant sum of **£6,750**, towards its grounds' maintenance budget. We also offer grant funding opportunities to community groups (subject to eligibility) through our <u>Council Grants Scheme</u> and the <u>Horley Edmonds Fund</u>.

The Town Council will continue to seek any available external funding opportunities and would welcome sponsorship from the local community.

The Horley Town Council website is kept up to date with news items, other important communications, Council Agendas and Minutes and a variety of community and business information. We continually make website enhancements to keep it informative, contemporary, and fully accessible.

We are fortunate to have strong links with our principal authorities and through important collaborative working, are able to provide significant input as well as influence important decision-making, to help support the economic growth of Horley as a prosperous and vibrant town, both now and in the future. The Town Council is proactive and ambitious in developing a programme of enhancements, infrastructure upgrades and new community projects and looks forward to delivering many more successful community projects in future.

Finally, I would like to thank our officers for all their support and hard work, especially the Council's Responsible Financial Officer Judy Morgan who is retiring in the coming summer

Jordan Beech Lead Member, Finance & General Purposes, March 2024

I was honoured to be chosen by the new administration in May to be the Chairman of the Leisure & Amenities Committee, following in the footsteps of my father Simon, who had been chairman for a number of years. The primary function of this committee is to look after the Town Council's green spaces, which are Horley Recreation Ground, Michael Crescent Centenary Park, Emlyn Meadows and Court Lodge Playing Fields. We also look after Church Meadows on behalf of Reigate & Banstead Borough Council and a few odd spaces around the town centre like Diana Walk.

This year has been an extremely busy one, as the Town Council started its project to renovate Michael Crescent Centenary Park, beginning with the removal of the old Scout building (originally a 1940s Canadian Army squash court) in September. A tender was also put out to completely replace the playground at Michael Crescent, which will take place in spring 2024, funded by Community Infrastructure Levy Strategic Infrastructure Programme (CIL SIP), a grant that we successfully applied for last year.

We have also just appointed a contractor for the replacement of the playground railings at Horley Recreation Ground and Court Lodge Playing Fields, funding for which was secured through Surrey County Council Your Fund Small Community Projects (formerly the Surrey County Councillors' member allocations) and this should be completed in March/April 2024. Our thanks to County Councillors Jordan Beech and Andy Lynch for supporting this. We would further like to acknowledge the support of Councillor Lynch in funding the summer planters in Court Lodge and Horley Row through the same scheme.

Our Allotments at Church Road and Langshott go from strength to strength every year; thank you to all the allotment holders for their hard work in maintaining their plots. This year, we also used CIL SIP funding to resurface the roads/car parks at both allotment sites, a project that was undertaken in January 2024 and looks superb. We have also worked in partnership with Langshott Allotment Tenants Association to provide fencing to help keep the deer out who have been helping themselves to plot holders' produce.

The Town Council is very proud of the Memorial Gardens in Horley Recreation Ground and, in its role as custodian of the town War Memorial, has just appointed a specialist contractor to clean the War Memorial. This should be completed this spring, well ahead of Remembrance Sunday 2024.

As always, Horley In Bloom 2023 showcased some beautiful gardens and hanging baskets in Horley, with a high standard of entries across the board, including in the now-annual photographic competition. I would like to thank all the entries, our judges and all our staff for making this event so impressive and congratulations to all the winners. Details for the 2024 competitions will be available soon, so please do keep an eye out on our website or social media for details.

We are fortunate to have several groups of volunteers in Horley. Our thanks go to all volunteers, including Horley Conservation Group, Gatwick Greenspace Partnership and the Q Garden volunteers, for all their hard work improving the green spaces around Horley. Thank you also to local volunteer litter pickers and to the members of Horley Lions Club that have been cleaning the 'Welcome to Horley' signs and adding bedding plants below the signs.

Finally, I would like to thank my Vice-Chairman, Cllr Jante Baird, and all members of the Leisure & Amenities Committee for all their support and hard work. Many thanks too to Town Clerk Joan Walsh, Leisure Officer Helen Maan and all the staff team for their efforts in improving the leisure facilities of Horley and in supporting this Committee.

Samantha Marshall

Chairman, Leisure & Amenities Committee February 2024

Planning & Development Committee Report 2023-24

The Town Council is a statutory consultee on most planning applications within the parish boundary and the Planning & Development Committee acts for the Council on these matters. We also have a sub committee to review plans that have deadline dates prior to a meeting. Its decisions are ratified at the next meeting by the full committee, or a supplementary comment is submitted to the borough council.

The Committee also considers any planning matters from neighbouring authorities such as Crawley, Mole Valley and Tandridge Borough and District Councils, which may have an impact on the town and its residents.

During the past 12 months the Committee has considered a total of 185 [180] Planning Applications for Horley. These comprise: -

- 4[3] Consultations from Surrey County Council (SCC) on schools and others from neighbouring authorities such as Crawley (including Gatwick Airport) and Mole Valley.
- 7 [19] large developments of 6 or more dwellings.
- 21 [15] small developments of less than 6 dwellings.
- 93 [114] extensions, loft conversions, conservatories and fencing.

• 34 [21] covering tree preservation orders. 26 16] commercial properties including changes of use for retail units/phone masts.

The figures in [] are for the previous year for comparison. Since May 2020, the borough council is no longer required to consult with us on some categories of applications such as permitted development though we do monitor these.

The Committee is also responsible for the following:

Gatwick Airport:

Through our on-going membership of the Gatwick Airport Consultative Committee [GATCOM] together with our appointment as a GATCOM member of the Noise and Track Monitoring Advisory Group [NATMAG] we are actively engaged in all airport matters as they may affect the local communities. Transport Group have continued throughout the year.

With regards the DCO [Northern Runway Project] the Planning Inspectorate [PINS] published the final documents amounting to some 35,000 pages. Similar to previous occasions the council set up small working groups to analyse the proposals and formulate a response. The topic headings which we believe are important to Horley are Noise, Air quality, Flooding, Surface Access and Climate Change

We have been advised that the public examination will commence on the 27th of February and continue throughout the first week of March. PINS has indicated that their report will be submitted to the Secretary of State and the end of August with the final decision towards the end of the year.

I am very happy to report that our close working relationship with borough officers and councillors on all airport matters has continued this year.

The Town Council continues to be fully engaged in the discussions around airspace modernisation.

The Town Council has continued, along with neighbouring parish councils, to participate in regular virtual meetings with Gatwick Airport where issues affecting the local communities are discussed. This is also an opportunity for the airport to brief us on business activities at the airport both current and future.

Accessibility Horley:

This group was formerly known as Horley Access and Pavement Audit Committee.

The change of name better reflected the work of the group in addressing all issues around disability access across the town and not just restricted to footpaths. The group continues work on a rolling programme of areas of concern both minor and major works. There have been many successful outcomes such as installation of new dropped kerbs in the Wellington Way area and footpath improvements to a stretch of pavement in Vicarage Lane.

A resident group member, who has impaired vision, has been working with borough officers on the High Street improvements.

Regular meetings of the Gatwick Local Community

Continued on next Page....

Horley Regeneration:

We have continued to meet on a regular basis with borough officers, but I regret to say there has been little to no progress to see on the ground. The issues around the subway have proved to be very protracted as is always the case when dealing with Network Rail. Senior borough officers and councillors have been proactive in trying to resolve the issues delaying delivery of improvements to the subway. We have also sought the assistance of our MP.

Horley Town Management Group:

The council has continued to participate in and support the work of this group under its new chair, Mike Humphrey. With the dissolution of another group there are several new members which has increased the number of local organisations represented.

Local Bus Services:

Our focus this past year has been to improve bus services through Westvale Park. Following the takeover of Southdown Metrobus are keen to meet the demand from the community but are being frustrated by the developers not opening up roads to allow bus access across the estate onto the A23. We are pressing SCC and RBBC to resolve this.

The second focus has been on improvements to the Real Time Passenger Information at bus stops which I mentioned in my last year's report. SCC are acutely aware of the issues which are county wide and appears, regrettably, that the solution is not a quick fix. The council will continue work on this issue with SCC and Metrobus.

The council is a member of SCC's Bus Enhanced Partnership

Horley Sewage Treatment Works:

The concerns around the problems from the works are well known with overtopping and contamination of the adjacent public footpath & open spaces in front of Campbell Grove following any reasonable amount of rain. Three of our councillors Chester, Barlow and Wotton have been very active working with SCC, RBBC, our MP and other stakeholders in striving to get Thames Water to resolve this in a timely fashion. The council has written to Thames Water, the Environment Agency and Ofwat. Looking to the future we are concerned that the works will be unable to meet the demands from the growth in the town's population, growth from Gatwick and the proposed residential developments in Hookwood under the Mole Valley draft Local Plan.

Continued on next Page....

Consultations:

In the past year the Council has responded to the following consultations:

	Consultations responded to:	
Crawley Borough Council Regulation 19 Local Plan Consultation	9th May 2023	Response Ratified on 27th June 2023
Consultation on Proposed Horley Row Conservation Area and Proposed Exten- sions to Massetts Road Conservation Area	29th August 2023	Response Ratified on 29th August 2023
Consultation on the draft A23 Great Street Design Code SPD	19th December 2023	Response Agreed 16th January 2024
Northern Runway Project Consultation	16th January 2024	Response Agreed 16th January 2024
Surrey Rights of Way Improvement Plan Consultation	16th January 2024	Online response completed at the meeting on 13 February 2024
West Sussex CC Post 16 Transport Policy Consultation	2nd February 2024	No Response Submitted—Agreed on 13th February 2024
Surrey County Council consultation: Vision Zero Road Safety Strategy 2024- 2050	12th March 2024	No Response Submitted—Agreed on 12th March 2024
DfT Consultation: Night Flight Re- strictions from October 2025	12th March 2024	No Response Submitted—Agreed on 12th March 2024

Planning Committee:

The committee meets monthly, and members of the public are encouraged to attend and address the committee on planning or other matters. Our determinations on planning applications are available to view on our website together with our responses to consultations. I am also happy to take telephone calls or e-mails from residents on the workings of the committee and its decisions.

In conclusion, I would like to thank my Vice Chairman Councillor, Jerry Hudson, and all members of the Committee for their hard work and support throughout the past year. My thanks, also to the Clerk and staff without whose support our job would be impossible.

Mike George Chairman, Planning & Development Committee February 2024

Mayoral Events 2023-24

Date	Event	Location
14/06/2023	Surrey Civic Network	Surrey County Council HQ
17/06/2023	Horley Carnival	Horley Recreation Ground
08/07/2023	Horley Singers	Methodist Church
15/07/2023	Trinity Oaks School Fair	Trinity Oaks CofE Primary School
23/07/2023	Spire Blessing	St Bartholomew's Church
26/07/2023	Lord Lieutenant Tea	Loseley Park
02/08/2023	Spreading of Ashes of Albert Stenning	Horley Recreation Ground
29/09/2023	Horley In Bloom Awards Night	Horley Baptist Church
08/10/2023	Installation of Bishop of Dorking	Guildford Cathedral
08/11/2023	Re-dedication of Memorial Garden	Horley Recreation Ground
10/11/2023	St Barts Fund Rising Concert for Roof	St Bartholomew's Church
11/11/2023	2 Minutes Silence	Horley Town Centre
12/11/2023	Remembrance Parade	Horley
22/11/2023	Tandridge Civic Day	The Arc , Caterham
03/12/2023	Christmas Tree Festival	Horley Methodist Church
09/12/2023	Councillors' Hospitality	Regent Hall
09/12/2023	Christmas Fair	Town Centre
23/12/2023	Greenaway Foundation Xmas Dinner	Oriel Highschool
10/01/2024	103rd Birthday Party	Carehome Horley
04/03/2024	Residents' Meeting	Horley Infant School

Right: Horley Town Mayor Cllr Martin Saunders at the 2023 Remembrance Parade in November as they march from the Town Centre to the War Memorial at Horley Recreation Ground







Above: Mayor Cllr Martin Saunders & Deputy Mayor Cllr Tom Turner attend the Surrey Pride event at Priory Park, Reigate in September

Above: MP Claire Coutinho, Mayor Cllr Martin Saunders and Deputy Mayor Cllr Tom Turner see off the start of the Horley Carnival Parade in June



Left:

In September former Borough and Town Councillor, Simon Marshall being presented with his town award by Horley Town Mayor Cllr Martin Saunders and Reigate & Banstead Mayor Cllr Eddie Humphreys for 42 years of dedicated service to local residents.

Town Awards

The Town Awards scheme was inaugurated in 2000, with the first awards being presented at the Annual Town Meeting of 10 April 2000. Nominations for Town Awards are invited every year, when anyone can complete a nomination form, together with a seconder, to propose an individual for outstanding service or commitment to the Town. Horley Town Council is responsible for the administration and final selection of award winners, according to strict guidelines and criteria.

Award winners receive a Town Badge, a Certificate of Commendation and their Citation. Presentations are usually made at the Town Meeting or at other appropriate events such as the Horley in Bloom Awards Ceremony, subject to the award winners' preference.

2010 Dr Jim Williamson

Kathleen Tremble

(Posthumous Award)

Previous recipients of the Town Awards:

- 2023 Tony Keay David Powell Simon Marshall **Bob Jenkinson MBE**
- **2022** Dr Richard Olliver
- 2021 Carol Fenton Michael Ruffhead **Yvonne Kinasz**
- 2018 Roy Martin **Ron Pearce** Alan Jones
- 2017 **Michael Nichols**
- 2016 Helen Peters
- 2015 **Brian Buss**
- 2013 Ann Middlecote lan Yeo
- 2012 Doug Kilborn Peter Moxley BEM
- 2011 Veronica Ballard Alison Brice

Tom Anglim 2008 **Robert Garfitt** Andrew Partridge 2007 Andrew Kent Alan Tracey 2005 Barbara Hall David Hall John Melvin 2004 Gordon McGinty Gill Partridge **Douglas Simpson**

2009

- 2002 Walter Jupp and Doreen Jupp John McFarlane John Rigby
- 2000 Graham Larcombe Joan Fewtrell and Syd Fewtrell Lew Targett Penny Jeffers **Richard Smith** Andy Thompson



Above is Tony Keay



Above is David Powell



In the Middle is Simon Marshall



Above is Bob Jenkinson

We are grateful to the Council for its continuing support in helping us maintain the New Churchyard in a way that is aesthetically pleasing & safe for the public.

As you are aware though it is called the "New Churchyard" it is really a public cemetery for the use of any resident of Horley

New contract for April 2024 – March 2025

Last year of the two firms that quoted Idverde came out cheaper. They had performed satisfactorily the previous two years. Their quote to extend the contract for a second year was a 5% increase on the previous year, which we accepted. But sadly their performance was far from satisfactory resulting in several complaints from the public.

This month we had a frank & open discussion with their new management team, who apologised for their poor performance stating with the new management team in place this would not occur. Also as a gesture of goodwill that they would keep the price same as last year, which we accepted.

Idverde - charges for April 2024 – March 2025

For grass maintenance -£8,324 incl.VAT

Dave Ford Tree care –charges for April 2023 – March 2024

For hedge maintenance -£1,368 incl. VAT. We have not received a new quote yet, but anticipate it would be an increase of around 4% in line with the CPI

Additional expenses incurred in April 2023- March 2024

Pollarding, the overhanging branches of an Oak, posing a risk to a house in Church View Close - £900. Half of this was paid by the homeowner.

Grant from Horley Town Council April 2023 —

£6,750

Volunteer contribution - Volunteers, continue to help maintain a safe environment by backfilling

sunken graves, attending to any tree work that does not require professional help & by keeping the place free of debris.

They have done a lot of work advised in the Quinquennial tree survey that could be handled by the non professional.

James Baker is no longer working with County Care. But he has promised to complete the painting of the Gates at the entrance of the New Churchyard.

The Old Churchyard –

Grass & Hedge maintenance is by RBBC

Request for Council grant for year beginning April 2024

In view of the extra expenses already incurred, we would be grateful if the Council could cover the whole of cost of the Grass & Hedge maintenance contract.

PCC contribution

Any shortfall will be covered by the PCC, but this is becoming more difficult, with the rising cost of living, experienced by our congregation.

Dr Thiru Jesudason.

Deputy Church warden

St Bart's Horley

THE HENRY SMITH CHARITY HORLEY www.henrysmithcharityhorley.org.uk

One of the most important pieces of information about any charity is how it spends its money. Therefore below we offer figures from our Annual Accounts

INCOME	
Balance at Bank 1/8.2022	3922.46
Vouchers in Hand	200.00
Henry Smiths Grants	17800.00
Refunds from purchases	34.49
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
Grants	16708.21
Admin Expenses	13.26
Voucher Gifts	40.00
END OF YEAR	
Vouchers in Hand	160.00
Balance at bank 31/7/2023	5035.48

During our last full accounting year to July 2023 we made grants to a total of 92 households made up of Single Parents, Single Adults, Families, Students Homeless people and people with disabilities. We also provided assistance to a group within a school which was providing support to children with a recent bereavement. In doing this 240 individuals benefited in some way.

From July 2023 to date we have had 75 eligible applications which we have contributed to. This suggests that we will have an increase in applicants by the end of this financial year. During the year we have had representation at both the Food Bank and the Food Club and we continue to regularly visit the Food Club at the Community Centre.

We have maintained good relationships with local schools, support agencies and the Citizens Advice Bureau and have had good collaboration with Horley Lions Club.

People may be aware that there have been a considerable number of refugees and asylum seekers housed locally. Although we have helped some such people in the past few years we are now further investigating if and how we can contribute to the needs of these groups. Decisions have yet to be made but we may be able to assist those who obtain a Right to Remain and then have to rely on their own resources

We are currently seeking a volunteer to assist us with our marketing and social media presence. Keeping the population of Horley aware of us is important.

(Prepared by; Doug Kilborn Administrator/Trustee March 1st 2024)

Horley Edmonds Fund Statement



Horley Edmonds Fund

Together we can

Fund Holder Annual Statement

Report for the Period:01 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Horley Edmonds Endow	ment Fund			
Market Value of Fund at 31	March 2023			£127,353.79
Capital Revaluation		Credits £5,577.40	Debits	
·	TOTAL	£5,577.40	£0.00	
Total Fund at 31 March 202	4			£132,931.19

Please note: Endowment valuations are updated annually on the 31st March

Grants Income & Expenditure				
Opening Balance at 01 April 2023				£3,751.50
		Receipts	Payments	
Donations		£19.09		
Dividend Receipts		£3,843.14		
Investment draw down		£2,732.30		
Contribution to Community Foundation			£1,895.92	
Grant Payments			£5,000.00	
	TOTAL	£6,594.53	£6,895.92	
Balance available for grant making a	t 31 March	2024		£3,450.11

Statement of Grants Given 01 April 2023 to 31 March 2024			
Date Applicant Amount Note 01/11/2023 Horley Lions £5,000.00 Funding for helping individuals and families who are foodbank users with their gas and electricity paymen			
1 grant given to the value of £5,000.00			

Full Council Meetings

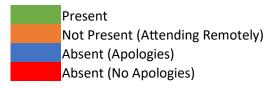
						49.5		
Councillor:	16 Apr 2023	20 Jun 2023	25 Jul 2023	05 Sept 2023	31 Oct 2023	12 Dec 2023	30 Jan 2024	19 Mar 2024
Avery, Hannah	2023	2023	2025	2025	2025	2025	2024	2024
Baird, Jante		1		I	1		I	
Baker, James					r		T	T
Barlow, Keith								
Daash, Jawalaw								
Beech, Jordan								
Blacker, Michael								
Burnham, Lynne								
Chester, Victoria								
Easterbrook, Lynnette							1	
Fagan, Emma		[
George, Mike								
Hudson, Jerry								
Hughes, Cecilia				•			·	·
Marr, Robert							1	
Marshall, Samantha								
Saunders Martin								
Saunders, Martin								
Turner, Tom				l			I	
Wotton, Steve		L			L			

Present Not Present (Attending Remotely) Absent (Apologies) Absent (No Apologies)

Attendance Statistics 2023-24

	23	27	01	29	26	24	21	19	16	13	12	09
	May	Jun	Aug	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	
Councillor:	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023	2024	2024	2024	2024
Avery, Hannah												
Barlow, Keith						-		-				
Blacker, Michael												
Chester, Victoria												
Easterbrook, Lynnette												
George, Mike												
Hudson, Jerry												
Hughes, Cec												
Saunders, Martin							, 	·				
Turner, Tom												
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,												
Wotton, Steve												

Planning & Development Committee Meetings



Councillor:	04 Jul 2023	17 Oct 2023	23 Jan 2024	23 Apr 2024
Avery, Hannah				
Baird, Jante				
Baker, James				
Beech, Jordan				
Burnham, Lynne				
Fagan, Emma				
Hughes, Cec				
Marr, Robert				
Marshall, Samantha				
Turner, Tom				
Saunders, Martin				
Wotton, Steve				

Leisure & Amenities Committee Meeting

Present Not Present (Attending Remotely) Absent (Apologies) Absent (No Apologies)

Environment Working Group Meetings (formerly Sub-Committee)

Councillor:	20 Jun 2023	05 Sept 2023	14 Nov 2023	27 Feb 2024
Avery, Hannah				
Baird, Jante				
Beech, Jordan				
Blacker, Michael				
Chester, Victoria				
Easterbrook, Lynnette				
George, Mike				
Saunders, Martin				
Steve Wotton				

Present Not Present (Attending Remotely) Absent (Apologies) Absent (No Apologies)

Payment of Members' Allowance 2023-24

			Travel/				
Member	Basic Al	lowance	Subsistence Total				
Hannah Avery	£	-			£	-	
Jante Baird	£	-			£	-	
James Baker	£	-			£	-	
Keith Barlow	£	-			£	-	
Jordan Beech	£	-			£	-	
Michael Blacker	£	-			£	-	
Lynne Burnham	£	-			£	-	
Victoria Chester	£	-			£	-	
Lynnette Easterbrook	£	-			£	-	
Emma Fagan	£	100.00			£	100.00	
Mike George	£	-			£	-	
Jerry Hudson	£	-			£	-	
Cec Hughes	£	-			£	-	
Robert Marr	£	-			£	-	
Samantha Marshall	£	-			£	-	
Martin Saunders	£	-			£	-	
Tom Turner	£	-	£ 8	8.75	£	8.75	
Steve Wotton	£	-			£	-	
Totals	£	100.00	£₹	8.75	£	108.75	

02/04/2024

15:30

Horley Town Council

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Summary Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 31/03/2023

Month No: 12

Cost Centre Report

			Actual Current Mth	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent
110	Council Income	Income	1,073	520,580	503,978	(16,602)			103.3%
	10	ess Transfer to EMR 	0	14,951					
	Movement to	(from) Gen Reserve	1,073	505,630					
120	Albert Rooms	Income	1,800	13,415	10,000	(3,415)			134.1%
		Expenditure -	878	7,121	7,150	29		29	99.6%
	Movement to	/(from) Gen Reserve -	922	6,294					
130	Legal and Statutory	Expenditure	0	12,933	13,000	67		67	99.5%
140		Expenditure	15,996	189,040	210,700	21,660		21,660	89.7%
150	Office Expenditure	Income Expenditure	0 1,541	9 20,899	0 17,525	(9) (3,374)		(3,374)	0.0% 119.3%
	Movement to	(from) Gen Reserve	(1,541)	(20,890)	11,020	(0,011)		(0,01 1)	110.070
160	Administration	- Income	(2,265)	(1,500)	0	1,500			0.0%
100	Administration	Expenditure	2,123	19,615	23,245	3,630		3,630	84.4%
	Movement to	/(from) Gen Reserve	(4,388)	(21,115)					
170	Compliance & Regulatory	Expenditure	229	3,948	5,000	1,052		1,052	79.0%
180	Maintenance and Repair	Expenditure	5,880	20,224	22,050	1,826		1,826	91.7%
190	Office Other Running Costs	Expenditure	(166)	93	0	(93)		(93)	0.0%
210	Court Lodge & Innes Pavilion	Income	2,547	16,627	16,600	(27)			100.2%
	N	Expenditure	839	10,267	14,081	3,814		3,814	72.9%
		/(from) Gen Reserve	1,708	6,360					
220	Horley Recreation Ground	Income Expenditure	1,527 1,491	21,783 38,370	18,776 35,562	(3,007) (2,808)		(2,808)	116.0% 107.9%
	Net Inco	me over Expenditure	36	(16,587)	(16,786)	(199)		(_,,	
	plus	• Transfer from EMR	0	0		<u> </u>			
	Movement to	(from) Gen Reserve	36	(16,587)					
230	Church Road Allotments	Income	283	3,594	3,300	(294)			108.9%
		Expenditure	0	530	2,370	1,840		1,840	22.4%
	Movement to	/(from) Gen Reser∨e -	283	3,064					
240	Langshott Allotments	Income	(65)	3,920	3,800	(120)			103.2%
	Maximum and da	Expenditure	331	1,792	7,100	5,308		5,308	25.2%
		/(from) Gen Reserve	(396)	2,128	0.740	(5.050)		(5.050)	0.40.00/
260	Michael Crescent	Expenditure Transfer from EMR	114 0	8,593 4,800	2,740	(5,853)		(5,853)	313.6%
		(from) Gen Reserve	(114)	(3,793)					
270	Emlyn Meadows	- Expenditure	0	0	2,000	2,000		2,000	0.0%
	Town Centre	Income	0	1,784	1,700	(84)			104.9%
		Expenditure	215	12,940	12,895	(45)		(45)	100.3%
	Movement to	(from) Gen Reserve	(215)	(11,156)					
290	Security	Expenditure	1,388	10,339	13,560	3,221		3,221	76.2%
310	Full Council	Expenditure	9,931	87,790	61,747	(26,043)		(26,043)	142.2%

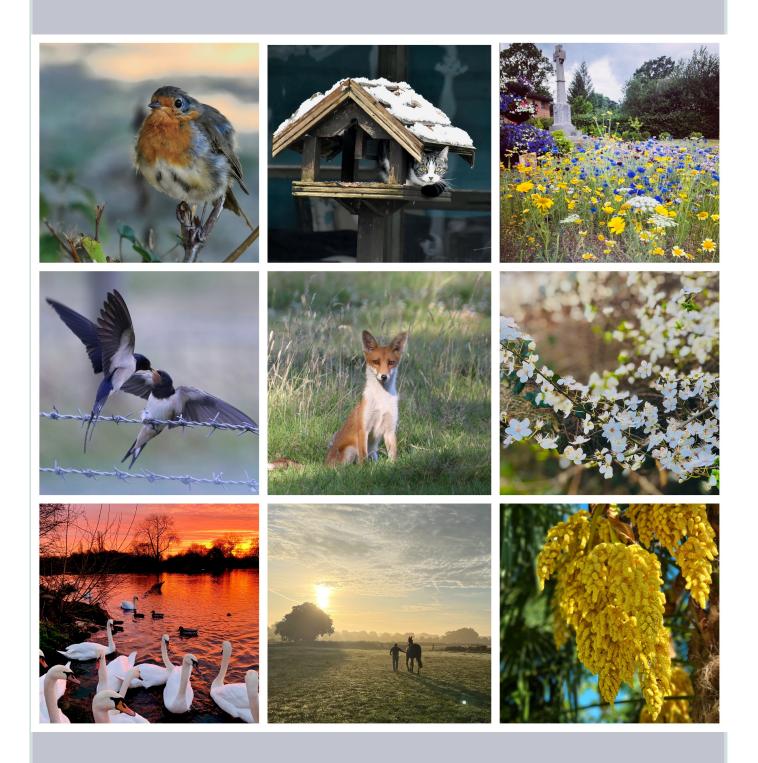
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02/04/2024 15:30 Month No: 12	Horley Town Council Summary Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 31/03/2023 Cost Centre Report								
		Actual Current Mth	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	
	plus Transfer from EMR	0	15,410						
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(9,931)	(72,379)						
320 Loans	Expenditure	0	47,141	47,141	0		0	100.0%	
	Grand Totals:- Income	4,900	580,211	558,154	(22,057)			104.0%	
	Expenditure	40,790	491,634	497,866	6,232	0	6,232	98.7%	
	Net Income over Expenditure	(35,890)	88,577	60,288	(28,289)				
	plus Transfer from EMR	0	20,210						
	less Transfer to EMR	0	14,951						
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(35,890)	93,837						

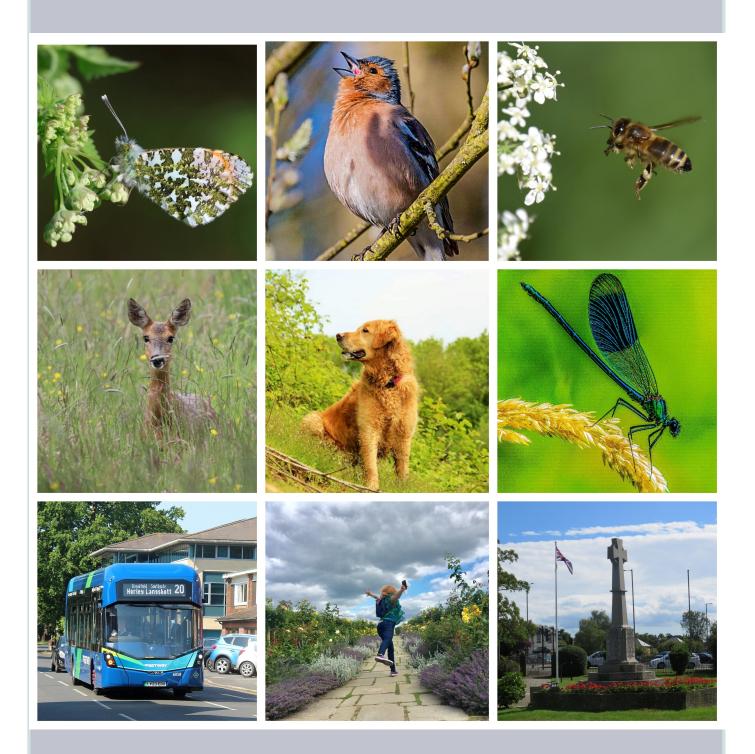
11/04/2023				Page 1	
12:19)	Detailed Baland			
			onth 12 Date 28/03/2023		
A/c	Description	Actual			
	Current Assets				
100	Debtors	6,019			
105	VAT Control Ac	5,539			
110	Prepayments	(42)			
150	Allotments - debtors	48			
200	HSBC Current 51219138	47,640			
205	HSBC Deposit 01219154	251,575			
210	HSBC Payroll 81345788	915			
215	Nationwide Intl 90036306	23,240			
220	FairFX Bank Debit Card	1,752			
225	Handelsbanken 50044859	98,504			
	Total Current Assets		435,191		
	Current Liabilities				
500	Creditors	3,890			
505	Mayors Charity	473			
521	HMRC PAYE Liability	(3)			
522	Pension Liability	0			
565	Holding Deposits	400			
566	Damage Deposits	2,560			
	Total Current Liabilities		7,320		
	Net Current Assets	_	427,871		
Total	Assets less Current Liabilities		427,871		
	Represented by :-				
300	Current Year Fund	80,777			
310	General Reserves	238,890			
320	EMR -CIL	59,493			
322	EMR - Parks and Playgrounds	23,560			
324	EMR - Commercial Hub Project	5,000			
325	EMR - Edmonds Hall	20,150			
	Total Equity	/	427,871		

The above statement represents fairly the financial position of the Council as at 31 March 2023

Photographs from Horley in Bloom and Photographic Competition 2023



Photographs from Horley in Bloom and Photographic Competition 2023 Continued



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