

# Horley Highlights

Newsletter of Horley Town Council

Issue 3 November 2003

## Upper River Mole revised flood study

In January 2000, working with neighbouring parish councils and local residents' groups at the local plan enquiry, Horley Town Council strongly contested the extent of the indicative 1 in 100 year flood plain.

As a direct result of the evidence collected and the case presented by our flooding consultant, the Local Plan Inspector agreed that the flood model had not been validated and that development should not proceed until the Environment Agency had revised the flood plain taking

into account the concerns raised.

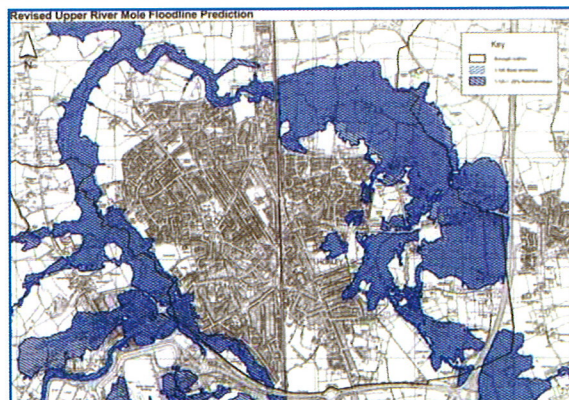
In September the Environment Agency published a revised flood plain which showed that areas at risk from flooding were indeed underestimated and that less land was available for Horley's "strategic location" of 2600 houses. In the North East sector at Great Lake Farm about two-thirds of the land originally allocated has now effectively been eliminated.

Everyone now agrees that Horley Town Council mounted a highly professional challenge,

which successfully refuted evidence put forward by the Environment Agency and supported by the Borough, County Council and developers.

If the Borough Council decides that it is not possible to accommodate the housing or that essential infrastructure cannot now be delivered, then doubts exist as to the viability of the whole plan.

Horley Town Council has already suggested to the Borough Council that another Local Plan enquiry will be necessary and have asked for consultation to recommence with



due haste. However, the next opportunity to question the housing need will take place at County Hall over the Surrey Structure Plan. The Environment Agency's report

includes a map showing the predicted extent of land that is at risk of flooding on a 1 in 100 year basis together with areas that could also be at risk as a result of climate change.

More information is available on the Borough Council's web site, [www.reigatebanstead.gov.uk/news1a/2003/pr9103FAQs.htm](http://www.reigatebanstead.gov.uk/news1a/2003/pr9103FAQs.htm)



## Chamber works hard for the December 6 Christmas switch on

The Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with the Town Council and the Town Centre Management Group, have announced details of the Christmas lights in the town centre.

This year most of the lights will be switched on much earlier as a result of discussions with local businesses.

The precinct and Christmas tree lights will be formally switched on at 4 p.m. on December 6, when it is hoped some of the cast from the Harlequin Pantomime will be in attendance.

Members of the Chamber have put in a lot of time and effort on refurbishing some of the old lights and, with the new lights. Horley should have a really good show this year. Look out in the local press or our web site for further information.

*Members and  
Chamber supporters  
spent a Sunday  
morning refurbishing  
some of the  
old lights.*



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# Website relaunched

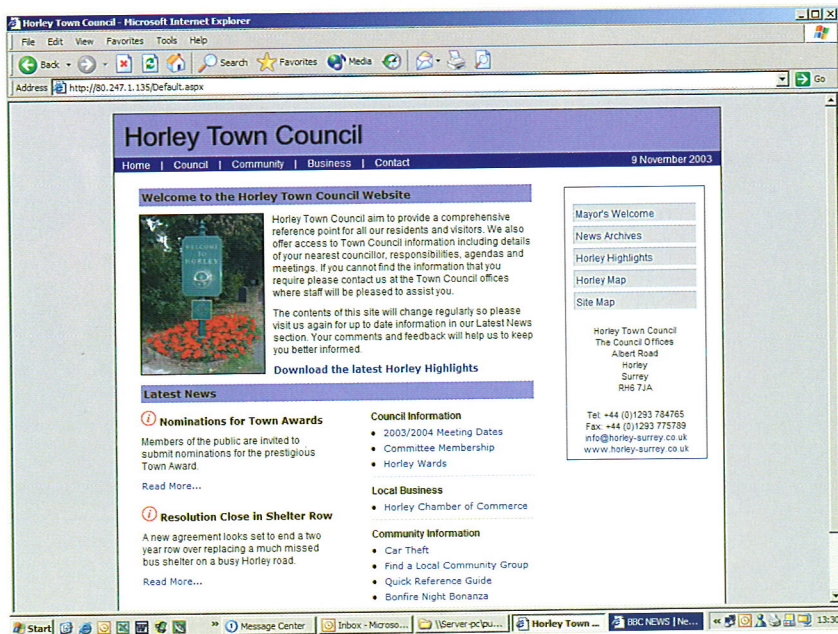
The Town Council has been busy preparing for a major revamp of its web site with a number of important changes. The site will be relaunched during November 2003. The new website will have a number of important changes. It will continue to provide community information with a directory of all the organisations and clubs in the Horley area.

Council information will be expanded to provide a greater depth. In line with the Council's intentions to make its business and procedures more open, and to comply with the Freedom of Information Act, members of the public will eventually be able to research council minutes, view forthcoming agenda, and scrutinise its financial accounts etc. News updates and press releases will be shown on the home page.

Lastly a business section will be created in the New Year. On request, any local businesses may have their entry displayed for a nominal sum, subject to the Council's approval. Please contact the Council Offices for more information,

Above all the Council will provide up-to-date information with a diary of forthcoming events. To access the Horley website use the link: [www.horley-surrey.co.uk](http://www.horley-surrey.co.uk).

Please log on and let us have your comments.



## Horley in Bloom

This year saw the 9th year of the annual Horley in Bloom competition and drew a record number of 48 entrants, with the youngest being Robbie Monahan aged 6. Since starting in 1995 it has expanded from the two categories of Residential and Commercial to encompass eight different categories. This year also saw a new category of Guesthouse/B&B, along with a reciprocal competition on the Court Lodge Estate, Court Lodge in Colour.

Horley in Bloom is now a joint initiative between Horley Town Council and Reigate and Banstead Borough Council.

Chairman and Founder Member of Horley in Bloom, Cllr Dr Andrew Kent, was compere

for the awards evening held on 26th September at Belmont Guest House, kindly hosted by Mr & Mrs Kevin Hagerty. Mayor of Reigate and Banstead, Cllr Philip Circus, presented the winners with their awards certificates and prizes. Also in attendance were other councillors including the Town Mayor of Horley, Cllr Michael Miller.



Winner of the Hanging Basket Award, Mrs. Avis Ayling, with Mayor of Reigate & Banstead, Cllr Philip Circus



Frank Good's garden - winner of Best Cottage Garden, 3rd year running



Hanging Basket created by Mrs. Avis Ayling



Winning front garden - home of Miss Mabel Clackson

### Winners of the 2003 competition

Commercial	The Kings Head
Community	Atkinson Court
Cottage Garden	Mr. Frank Good
Guesthouse/B&B	Prinsted Guest House
Hanging Basket	Mrs. Avis Ayling
Residential Back Garden	Miss Mabel Clackson
Residential Front Garden	Miss Mabel Clackson
Allotments	Mr. Rudi Buob
Best Newcomer	Mr. David Bray



# Fastway is on track



The new automated bus service, Fastway, was on show in Horley on September 1st and coincided with its launch in Crawley. Although outwardly similar to Horley's Metrobuses, Fastway benefits from:

- "Smart" technology, providing real time passenger information both on board and at bus stops
- Guideways in dedicated bus lanes, and priority at traffic lights
- A retractable ramp for improved disabled access

Although operational in Crawley, it will not start in Horley until 2005. While it is undoubtedly well suited to Crawley's dual carriageways and wide boulevards, a question mark still remains over its suitability in Horley. With Horley's peak period congestion, lack of guideways and narrow roads, many councillors remain sceptical that it will offer any significant advantage.



*Kate Allenby, Olympic bronze medallist in the modern pentathlon, at the Fastway ceremony*

More information is available from the website [www.fastway.info](http://www.fastway.info)

## The town remembers



A number of Town, Borough and County Councillors joined the Royal British Legion in the march to the annual Remembrance Sunday Service.

The service at the memorial gardens was conducted by Branch Chaplain the Rev John Glasspool, and the parade was led by the Band of Redhill Crusaders Corps of Drums.

## Memorial back to former glory

The finishing touches were made last month to complete the task of cleaning and refurbishing the war memorial in the Horley A23 Recreation Park. Using the assistance of the Borough Council's specialist team, the war memorial was carefully and sensitively renovated to bring it back to its former glory.



## HIGHLIGHTS in brief....



### Surrey Structure Plan

The SSP is a key planning document because it determines how the districts will meet the Government housing quota for the country. Once the plan has been adopted and the key housing sites have been identified, it will be very difficult to challenge major planning applications when they come forward.

Horley Town Council over the last two years has responded to every proposed stage of the Plan. This culminated in the submission of formal objections to various policies.

Only a small percentage of objectors have been invited to participate in the Examination in Public in November. Horley Town Council has been selected as one of the objectors and will be represented by Cllr Dr Andrew Kent, Chairman of the Planning & Development Committee and by Cllr Michael Miller, Chairman & Town Mayor. One of the key points relates to Horley's "strategic allocation" of 2600 houses. In the light of new and emerging information on Horley's floodplains, Horley Town Council will be questioning whether it is now possible to accommodate this level of development.

### New Playground Equipment

The Leisure & Amenities Committee has been reviewing requirements for new playground equipment for 2004. You may have noticed some of the changes such as the new safety surfacing at Court Lodge.

If you have any suggestions for improvements, or your children have any ideas for new items of playground equipment, please let us know.

### Striving for a Quality Parish Council

Under new Government initiatives, Horley Town Council is evaluating the possibility of applying for Quality Parish Council Status.

This means that the Council will have to satisfy a number of demanding performance criteria. One of these is to keep in touch with our electorate and to produce a regular quarterly newsletter, to which we are fully committed.

We shall report on the progress of our QPS plans next year.

### Council Accounts

HLB AV Audit plc has completed the annual audit for the financial year ending 31 March 2003 (under the powers of the Account and Audit Regulations 2003) and has issued a Notice of Completion with an unqualified opinion.












This means that the auditor is completely satisfied with our financial standing. The Council fully complies with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and therefore any member of the public may inspect the council's latest set of accounts by prior appointment.



# HORLEY TOWN COUNCILLORS

Ward Codes N - North NW - North West  
NC - North Central S - South  
NE - North East SE - South East

BC - also Reigate & Banstead Borough Councillor

Ward	Councillor		Ward	Councillor	
NC	 Cllr. Diana Andrews 16 Wesley Close, Horley RH6 8JB 01293 773189 (H) dianajandrews@horley-surrey.co.uk		SC BC	 Cllr. Bernard Kendall Printsted, Oldfield Road, Horley RH6 7EP 01293 785233 bernardkendall@horley-surrey.co.uk	
SC	 Cllr. Eddie Andrews 16 Wesley Close, Horley RH6 8JB 01293 773189 eddiejandrews@horley-surrey.co.uk		SE	 Cllr. Dr Andrew Kent 151 Balcombe Road, Horley RH6 9DR 01293 430611 andrewkent@horley-surrey.co.uk	
NC	 Cllr. Deborah Ann Ashley-Smith 1 St Hilda's Close, Horley RH6 7BA 01293 776197 debbieashleysmith@horley-surrey.co.uk		NC	 Cllr. Graham Larcombe 63 Church Road, Horley RH6 8AB 01293 432632 grahamlarcombe@horley-surrey.co.uk	
N	 Cllr. Sarah Branwhite 21 Oakside Lane, Horley RH6 9XS 01293 773075 sarahbranwhite@horley-surrey.co.uk		N BC	 Cllr. Simon Marshall 12 Castle Drive, Horley RH6 9DB 01293 786859 simonmarshall@horley-surrey.co.uk	
NE BC	 Cllr. Tony Breen 34 Massetts Road, Horley RH6 7DS 01293 820112 (H) tonybreen@horley-surrey.co.uk		SE BC	 Cllr. John Meech 41 Castle Drive, Horley RH6 9DD 01293 783655 johnmeech@horley-surrey.co.uk	
NW	 Cllr. Denese Brooke-Harte 47 Parkhurst Road, Horley RH6 8EU 01293 418090 denesebrookeharte@horley-surrey.co.uk		N BC	 Cllr. Michael Miller 50 Haroldslea Drive, Horley RH6 9DU 01293 784201 (H) 07712 889228 (M) michaelmiller@horley-surrey.co.uk	
NE	 Cllr. Jack Chapman 43 Bonehurst Road, Horley RH6 8PJ 01293 786165 jackchapman@horley-surrey.co.uk		N	 Cllr. Tania Peppiatt 43 Bonehurst Road, Horley RH6 8PJ 01293 786165 taniapeppiatt@horley-surrey.co.uk	
NW	 Cllr. Michael George 31 Rutherford Close, Horley RH6 8RD 01293 411655 mikegeorge@horley-surrey.co.uk		NW	 Cllr. Andrea Venn The Old House, Bremner Avenue Horley RH6 8EP 01293 823775 andreavenn@horley-surrey.co.uk	
NW	 Cllr. Maureen Goldsmith Council Offices, Albert Road, Horley RH6 7JA 01293 823734 mogoldsmith@horley-surrey.co.uk		SC	 Cllr. Barry Weston 20 Hatchgate, Horley RH6 7EA 01293 428948 barryweston@horley-surrey.co.uk	

All councillors may be contacted at their home address  
Contact the council for further information.

The views expressed in the contents of Horley Highlights and  
as defined by the editorial staff are not necessarily those of  
the Town Council.

## Councillors' Surgeries

Town Councillors are available to discuss constituency matters with members of the public, in confidence, at the Council Offices every other Saturday morning between 10.00 and 11 am.

The next dates for surgeries are:

15 November 2003  
29 November 2003  
6 December 2003

For dates in 2004  
please check with  
the council's  
help line on  
01293 784765

## Council Meetings

Horley Town Council meets regularly, based on its regular cycle of Committee and Full Council meetings.

Members of the public are very welcome to attend and voice their own opinions on various local topics during the Public Forum.

The Council represents all parts of the community and it is your views that are important in assisting us in making realistic and sound decisions.

## Meeting Dates 2003/04

Full Council meetings, Leisure & Amenities and Finance & General Purposes committee meetings usually take place at 8.00 pm on Tuesday evenings.

The Planning & Development committee meets at 7.30 pm on Tuesday evenings. For details of all the precise meeting dates, and for any general enquiries, please phone, fax or e-mail the Town Clerk.

### November

18th Planning and Development (Full)  
25th Spare

### December

2nd Planning and Development (Interim)  
Full Council  
9th Planning and Development (Interim)  
Leisure and Amenities  
16th Planning and Development (Interim)  
23rd Spare  
30th Spare

### 2004

#### January

6th Finance and General Purposes [Precept]  
13th Planning and Development (Full)  
20th Spare  
27th Planning and Development (Interim)  
Full Council [Precept]

#### February

3rd Planning and Development (Interim)  
Leisure and Amenities  
10th Spare  
17th Finance and General Purposes  
24th Planning and Development (Full)

If you know of someone who would benefit from an audio or large print copy of this newsletter, please contact the Town Clerk