

L 5560 Horley Churchyards

Cllr George reported that the wildflower planting was delayed due to the dryness of the ground and would be followed up by the contractor at a later date.

RESOLVED;noted

L 5561 HTC Grounds Maintenance and Security

Updates on recent meetings with the Grounds Maintenance Contractor:

Emlyn Meadows: The Assistant CEO reported it had been agreed with the grounds maintenance contractor that management of Emlyn Meadows would be altered to enhance biodiversity. The top section, used for children's play, will continue to be mown as normal. The bottom half of the meadow however will be left to grow, with pathways mown through it for walking. This would be made known to the public with on-site signage and social media along with information supplied on the ecological benefits.

RESOLVED:noted

L 5562 Members' inspections of Recreation Grounds:

Court Lodge: Cllr Avery reported that every piece of swing type equipment in the playground required some oil to prevent squeaks and this would be passed on to the contractor.

Horley Recreation Ground: Cllr Saunders reported feedback about some anti-social behaviour at the skatepark by large groups and this would be passed on to the local PCSO.

RESOLVED: noted

L 5563 It was reported that the junior goalposts had become uneven and pitted. The matter would be followed up by the Leisure Officer as a safety concern.

RESOLVED: noted

Community Events in Horley

L 5564 Horley in Bloom (HIB) and Photographic Competitions 2025:

Cllr George reported the plant swap at the St George's Day Fair was very successful. He added that competition entries were generally high but there were none received from Westvale Park which would be followed up for next year.

RESOLVED: noted

L 5565 Horley Carnival 2025:

Cllr Baird reported that the event was a great success despite the very hot weather. There were less floats this year, which was thought to be attributed to the high cost for groups to obtain appropriate insurance. The café operator had a very successful day and was praised for her cooperation, including keeping the toilets open for customers. The Chair extended her sincere gratitude to the entire organising committee as well as participants and volunteers for their hard work with the popular event.

RESOLVED:noted

L 5566 Community Project Updates

The Assistant CEO provided updates on two projects:

- **Power Smart Outdoor Gym Equipment:** The full installation was unavoidably delayed due to the electronics for the phone charging element requiring another part but the contractor would install this as soon as it was in stock which would then allow for the opening ceremony to be arranged.
- **Drainage Alleviation Project at The Horley Recreation Grounds:** The CEO reported that drainage improvement works were scheduled to begin in the coming week.

RESOLVED: noted

Reigate & Banstead Borough Council Surveys

L 5567 Horley Town Council Comments on the Reigate & Banstead Borough Council Greenspaces Survey:

The formal submission by the Town Council was summarised with broad support for the strategy's aims and the following comments were also made:

- The survey appeared to disproportionately focus on the north of the borough with the omission of some Horley sites, such as, Horley Recreation Ground, Church Meadows as well as some areas of borough-owned land.
- There was a lack of early consultation with the Town Council during the drafting phase, which was considered a missed opportunity, given its extensive experience in managing major parks and greenspaces.
- There was a lack of stakeholder engagement with key local organisations, such as Horley Conservation Group and Gatton's Cattle Grazing Group who were not consulted. The omission of Salfords & Sidlow Parish Council was also highlighted.
- Following feedback given by HTC, it was advised that Borough officers would hold a drop-in engagement session at Horley Recreation Ground on 5 July 2025.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council's responses to the Reigate Banstead Draft Greenspaces Strategy be ratified

L 5568 The Assistant CEO presented a detailed analysis on the results of the shared data from the Horley Open Spaces Survey, for which thanks were extended to the Leisure Officer for her extensive work.

- **Key Findings:** 751 responses were received. 72% of respondents felt there were not enough facilities for exercise locally. 78% felt there were not enough facilities for teenagers, with 94% rating the quality of existing teen facilities as poor. Horley Recreation Ground was identified as the most important and most visited open space. Proximity was the main factor (73%) for families with under 12s when choosing which park to visit.
- **Desired Facilities:** The overwhelming top request for teenage facilities was a pump track (70% of responses). This was followed by a parkour and basketball facilities.
- **Discussion and Action:** A discussion followed regarding the potential demand for a pump track. The Chair noted that there is a short window of opportunity (the month of July) to apply for surplus SIF2 funding (£500k available). It was agreed that this survey data could provide a strong evidence base for an application.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 5569 Surrey County Council 'Blue Heart' Campaign (Grass Verges)

The Assistant CEO reported that a draft letter had been prepared by Cllr Mearing for the SCC Cabinet Member for the Environment. It advised the Town Council's support for the overall aims of the campaign but expressed concern that proposed changes to the scheme may lead to the downgrading and loss of smaller wildflower verges and spaces. It further highlighted that these

small spaces were ecologically significant for creating wildlife corridors, a view supported by the Surrey Wildlife Trust.

RESOLVED: that the letter to the SCC Cabinet Member for the Environment, regarding the 'Blue Heart' Campaign (Grass Verges), be approved and submitted.

L 5570

Use of HTC Community Buildings, Parks and Outdoor Spaces

It was noted that RBBC would be running their "BE Active" programme of events for the summer holidays, which will take place at Horley Recreation Ground and Emlyn Meadows. The Chair added that the RBBC Greenspaces team had been reminded of the need to seek prior permission from the Town Council for events like these taking place as an essential requirement for administrative purposes.

RESOLVED: noted.

Compliance & Regulatory

L 5571

HTC Playgrounds and Grounds Inspections and Repairs:

The CEO reported the discovery of damage to a number of ceiling height windows at The Innes Sports Pavilion Cour Lodge, arising from vandalism. As the windows were in a poor, ageing state, they had been listed for replacement with toughened glass, along with the PVC frames. It was hoped the project would qualify for a bid application through the recently extended CIL SIP2 funding scheme.

RESOLVED: noted.

Outside Bodies

L 5572

Gatwick Greenspace Partnership (GGP):

Cllr George reported that he had been re-elected as Chair at the recent AGM of the partnership and talks were ongoing with Charlwood PC and Newdigate PC about them joining the partnership as funding members.

RESOLVED: noted

L 5573

Horley Conservation Group (HCG):

The Chair reported that the group's last meeting included the overpopulation of non-native carp species in Tanyard Pond, which were illegally introduced and damaging the aquatic ecosystem. The group wishes to undertake electro-fishing to remove the invasive species and allow native wildlife to recover. An application for a grant of £700-£800 from the County Councillor's fund is being prepared to cover the cost. The non-native fish will be humanely dispatched, while any native species will be returned to the pond. A new sign had been installed at the Fieldings Orchard, Langshott, crediting the group's work.

RESOLVED: noted.

Allotments in Horley

L 5574

Proposal to introduce a refundable deposit charge for new allotment tenancies:

The matter was considered by the Committee, to introduce a refundable deposit for new tenancies. This was due to an increase in the number of plots being vacated in a poor condition, requiring significant maintenance and administrative costs for the council to resolve. The deposit aims to incentivise tenants to leave their plots in a reasonable state, on departure.

Members considered the appropriate level of refundable deposit, based on officer recommendations and these would be clearly explained in the new tenancy agreements together with photographic evidence taken of each plot before hire and on departure.

Cllr Beech proposed and Cllr Baird seconded that a refundable deposit of £60 be introduced and reviewed in one year and this was carried by majority vote. Additionally, the CEO would have delegated authority to waive the deposit charge in cases of evidential financial hardship and this would be clearly set out in new tenancy agreements.

RESOLVED: that a refundable deposit of £60 for all new allotment tenancy agreements be introduced together with clear guidelines, subject to further consideration by the CEO in cases of evidential financial hardship and the matter be reviewed in one year.

L 5575 The CEO reported that recent issues with unkempt plots had highlighted the requirement for the Town Council to introduce an Allotments Policy to cover potential plot evictions. The Policy would set out clear procedures for inspections, warnings and ultimate evictions together with a clearly stated Appeals Process, for council adoption at a later date.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 5576 **Communications Received**

The Assistant CEO reported ongoing communications with Hevers Avenue residents, who had made concerns about overgrown trees on their properties with the Horley Recreation Ground boundary, reportedly causing loss of light and falling debris on to their gardens. Previous arboriculture inspections undertaken by HTC had concluded that improvement works were not deemed the council's responsibility. However, the residents had persisted with their request along with a contribution offered towards splitting the cost of works with the council. The Chair added that she had visited the site a year ago, but no further action was taken. Given the lapse in time, it was agreed that a new, revised report on the condition of the trees be commissioned by the Leisure Officer to determine possible next steps.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 5577 **Diary Dates**

11 July 2025, 6.00 pm - RBBC CGR Briefing for HTC

15 July 2025, 7.30 pm - Planning & Development Committee

23 July 2025, 6.00 pm - RBBC's Public Engagement: CGR - Horley Community Centre

L 5578 **Items for Future Consideration**

A review of Allotment Fees and Charges.

L 5579 **Press Release**

1. Opening ceremony - Power Smart Outdoor Gym Equipment, Horley Recreation Ground.
2. Placement of new Memorial Bench for Howard Easterbrook.
3. Installation of the new picnic bench, Emlyn Meadows.

Meeting closed at 20:58

Date of Next Meeting: 14 October 2025