

HENFIELD COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR 2018/19
(Presented by the Chairman)

This report covers the work of the Henfield Community Partnership (HCP) to 31st August 2019

Organisation

The Partnership is managed by a small Board of Directors which met once in 2018/19 in pursuance of its statutory duties. The day-to-day running is delegated to the Management Committee (MC) which normally meets monthly. The membership of the Board and the Management Committee as at 31st March 2019 is set out in Appendix 1. Reporting to the Management Committee are the Action for Older People's Group, Henfield Computer Club, Henfield Activity Plan (HAP) and a number of ad hoc groups formed to action specific projects.

At the AGM on 13th September 2018 Carol Eastwood, Chairman, Richard Kendall, Vice Chairman and Anthony Druce, Secretary, were re elected as Directors. Matthew Chart was elected as Treasurer.

Partnership membership is free and open to local individuals and organisations willing to sign up to its objects. Members are entitled to stand for election and to vote on resolutions at General Meetings.

The Partnership Management Committee continues to meet monthly and we are pleased that Mike Morgan one of our elected District Councillors, continues to join us when he is able to as his input from an HDC perspective is invaluable. We were pleased to welcome Paul Crowe onto the committee.

Progress During 2018/19

The Partnership, now in its 13^h year, has continued its achievements for the benefit of the local community, as described below. This year we have successfully completed five major events in addition to our normal activities. We have been fully involved with Horsham's year of Culture with our own programme of events.

Henfield Visitor Economy Leader Bid - Hidden Henfield

Our application for £24173.18 was granted and we entered into contracts with Fitzpatrick Woolmer for Wayfarer posts, PMW for a website and Dell for a screen and laptop.

The grant was to fund a visitor economy initiative which was fully supported by HDC, to entice people to come to Henfield and stay while exploring all the village has to offer. This work complements both the Horsham District and South Downs national park Strategies and the shade of green chosen for the wayfarer posts is in keeping with the overall design aims.

The nine posts have been situated around the village providing tourist information including a circular walk which begins and ends in the village. They are attractive and eye catching and we have received favourable comments upon them.

The website Hidden Henfield was professionally created by PMW from Billingshurst and we are grateful to Mike Ainscough for giving access to his vast library of pictures, Alan Barwick for all his help in sourcing material and giving an interesting and informative walk, Eddie Colgate for the use of material from his book and PMW for putting this all together and creating a Hidden Henfield brand with hidden features.

The website is suitable for multi media use and has social media pages. It is being managed by Paul Crowe, Mike Ainscough and Carol Eastwood.

A rolling information screen has been located in Village Care by kind permission of Tina Hoad. There are strict terms and conditions on the grant monies and all components must remain for at least 5 years. Inspections could take place at any time. The documents relating to the grant are kept in the parish office.

This was a complex undertaking but worth the effort as it gives Henfield a foundation for the future and proves how much we value our heritage and surroundings.

Henfield Year of Culture 2019

Various events and programmes have been successfully run for the Year of Culture among them were Any Questions, Gardeners' Question Time, The Flower Festival, part of Gardens and Arts 20th Anniversary, Photographic Exhibition, St George's Day Celebration, Brighton Beach Boys concert and more. Two events which would not have happened without HCP were

The District Showcase Tour 24th March 2019

HCP with the help of the Parish Council and BP Guild successfully shut the High street on March 24th so the District showcase tour could roar through Henfield and park in the High street for 45 minutes.

This meant a boost to all businesses who opened and an opportunity for local food and drink providers to supplement the pubs and cafes. Over 2000 people came to see Italian super cars, English classic cars, Americana French classic cars and VW camper vans from Plum Jam.

There was a static car display where local enthusiasts showed off their rare treasures, car themed music and a roving magician. The sun shone and the crowd enjoyed the spectacle, the engine roars and the American police car sirens. We were complemented by HDC on a well run event which stretched from one end of the High street to the other.

Community Mosaics

Suffragettes finally got the vote in 1918 and as it was the centenary we decided to mark the occasion by applying to the Votes for Women Centenary Fund for a grant to make a community mosaic depicting the struggle. Research and Alan Barwick helped us to find out what an important role Henfield played in the history of Suffragism as Backsettown House in Furners lane was used to nurse those who had gone on hunger strike in prison back to health so they could be sent back!

Christobel Pankhurst was just one suffragette who visited and other local ladies showed their support for the cause by the way they filled in their census in 1911. Thanks to the grant of £2000 and monies from HDC's Year of Culture we were able to commission two mosaics from Creative Waves and which depicted the Violet, emblem of the Suffragettes and a landscape of Backsettown House, with a suffragette and the South Downs also represented.

The Mosaics are at the bottom of Coopers Way awaiting their information plaques which are in the process of being made.

Henfield Summer Show/Fair

The Parish Council decided it could no longer resource and organise the fair and so it was agreed that HCP would organise it as one of the Year of Culture events and put a different twist on proceedings.

Organising the Fair is easily the most challenging event HCP have taken on since I became Chairman and it soon became apparent we needed a dedicated team of people to make it happen. There were five of us who took on responsibilities and had small teams of people helping us. The Fair would not have happened without these people stepping forward or having their arms twisted, Elaine Goodyear and Gill Perry representing both HCP and HPC, Malcolm Eastwood HPC, Denis Muirden, Himself! And me from HCP.

We started working on the logistics of the Fair in August booking the Sheep Show and the marquees and with the help of Emma Osman from BN5 looked at how we could change the exhibits to be more topical. We came up with Bake Off, Grow off and Craft Off and advertised the new categories in BN5 and The Parish magazine.

We negotiated with the BP Guild to have some complementary food providers and decided all community stalls had to provide an activity to make the fair a fun day out for families with plenty to do. We had local commercial stalls and an inflatable football game, roving magician, Patcham Silver Band and Stix Drummers and the sun shone.

We would have liked a few more exhibits in the show tent but as the first year of change all went well. We even overcame the last minute problem when BP Guild could not supply the promised tea tent (as it had perished in the previous winter) by improvising with a colourful gazebo canopy which worked perfectly thanks to a fine day.

Henfield Memorial Field Festival 2018

HCP and Henfield Parish Council (HPC) together with some of the Sports clubs jointly organised a very successful free Festival to celebrate the reopening of the Memorial Playing field following extensive refurbishment.

HAP helped organise the service led by Rev Paul Doick and the Sports activities which proved very popular on the day and gave people the opportunity to try new games and experience old fashioned ones like Sack race and Egg and Spoon race.

HCP were responsible for the food and drink providers, licences and First Aid cover and worked in partnership to ensure this was an inclusive and enjoyable event. The Festival was an enormous success with crowds of people enjoying the Memorial Service, food and drink and games. They stayed to listen to the band and soaked up the sunshine on a glorious afternoon.

Henfield Christmas Shopping

We did not organise an evening event as we had agreed to promote Saturday shopping with free parking. The previous events had been successful because there were more retail shops than there are now and BN5 had organised a very popular raffle. In 2018 BN5 had organised a Brain Tumour walk in the summer which meant businesses had already been generous and BN5 had run a community event.

After we had publicised our event, Stokes decided to organise evening shopping which meant there was no joined up thinking and some confusion. The committee confirmed their decision to leave the traders to organise themselves in future.

On a positive note we did run another very successful Sheep Trail and the sponsorship monies raised helped pay for a teacher in Haiti and provide an education for underprivileged children. The trail took place throughout the High Street and the Library kindly acted as the collecting point.

Henfield Activity Plan HAP - Supporting the Wellbeing of Our Community

Ann Donoghue Contributor August 2019

In support of the Henfield Community Partnership (HCP) and Henfield Parish Council, the Henfield Activity Plan (HAP) was launched 3 years ago as part of the HCP Community Action Plan.

The aim was to find ways to help sustain the wide variety of opportunities by improving connectivity and communication, creating a common events' calendar and collaborating on the larger village-wide events (organisations remain independent in their organisation and management) and facilitating the maintenance of up to date contacts.

More than 100 clubs, societies and voluntary organisations in Henfield were contacted and with their consent, sorted into eight Community Clusters (each of which consists of organisations with common interests). Information and contact details are continually updated and made available via the BN5 website.

Since last year, a small group (5) of HCP and HPC colleagues have continued to meet regularly to act as a conduit for clubs and organisations in Henfield to help them:

Connect with each other and relevant local and external organisations to either further their own activities eg Connector Plus and Horsham Age UK or village wide initiatives/events eg The Memorial Field Festival in September 2018.

Highlight potential new funding streams eg new Horsham District Council lottery

Gain new membership/volunteers/resources eg by collating a directory of resources owned by clubs available to loan to others (examples: PA system, A boards)

Creating local publicity articles for local publication to help attract new members.

Action for Older People's Group - Report to end of July 2019 Contributor Leo Jago

This year AfOP has worked closely with Horsham Age UK. Christophe attended a Horsham meeting, with national Age UK policy staff, and gave a talk on Oral Health for older people. We met with Emma Osman of BN5 Magazine to explore ways to promote information to older people. Lucy Janicki has become Sobell Court's representative and offers their premises for our meetings. Nicky Fuller now represents Horsham AgeUK. AfOP members have worked with The Arts Society of Henfield to plan a "Memories Walk" in the village for older people in conjunction with Alan Barwick, Curator of Henfield Museum. Age UK is also a source of potential initiatives: Reading with Friends, helping older people with their allotments and intergenerational projects which might be relevant in Henfield.

The Older People and Shopping in Henfield Access Report was presented to the Community Partnership in September 2018 and suggestions for action are being considered.

Skills and Safety sessions for mobility scooter users in Henfield are planned for this September. These sessions will be at the Haven and delivered by trained volunteers from Horsham Town Community Partnership.

The next updated edition of the **Services Directory** is planned for 2020 and, space permitting, will contain an index.

This year's theme for the **Annual Public Meeting** was Life is for Living and featured two inspirational speakers Ian Jupp "Man on a High Wire" and Pam Goodall, "Pam a Bike". Creative Waves, Nadia and Vanessa, involved the attendees in a creative workshop. Local groups' information stalls included the Haven, Connector Plus, Horsham AgeUK, Computer Club, Link Alarms and Henfield Shed. The afternoon ended with our traditional cream tea. In reviewing the meeting, which did not attract enough people, we are considering changing the format.

Steining Community Transport made their bus available on two half days each month for Henfield residents. We suggested that they advertise in the BN5 magazine. Increasing the take-up of under-used community owned vehicles is being addressed through a Horsham wide newly formed network of providers.

The Computer Club - Report to end of July 2019 Contributor Brian Walton

The club has continued positively with average membership attendance maintained at around 15 per week, although the attractions of the Village Hall are not so great in the summer months when figures do decrease somewhat!

Another sign of strength is that we have gained several new mentors including someone who lectured in IT/Computing before retirement.

Last year we purchased a printer for members who have benefitted from its availability, especially those who don't have easy access to printing. There is a nominal charge of 10p per colour page or 5p for black and white.

We have been successful in obtaining a grant from a local charity to fund the purchase of a speaker unit and wireless microphone in order to assist hard of hearing members during presentations and talks. We also offer the use of this facility to other groups for a small fee.

The Club has attended events held in the Main Hall in order to increase its public awareness.

Various talks have been given by mentors and a local PCSO officer on subjects including: use of ipads, sending and receiving emails, basic internet safety and password security.

Future talks such as use of Facebook are planned.

The addition of extra mentors has allowed us to offer one to one instruction in basic use of spreadsheets. Four mentors are available for this training.

The social side continues to be a vital ingredient in the Club's success and a party was held in January after one of the weekly meetings where food and soft drinks were supplied courtesy of the club. This was deemed to be a great success and it is planned to hold another after the summer break.

Coffee/tea and biscuits are always well received and In spite of costs increasing for refreshments together with those for the hall hire we have been able to maintain the weekly charge of £2.

Key Performance Indicators

This year Last year

Average number of weekly attendees 15 15

Number of mentors 16 12

Number of new members in the period 21 20

Funds including bank a/c – end June £1009.75 £1015.20

Economic Monitoring

The raspberry noggins were installed in Village Care and Design Copy Print (DCP) to measure footfall in the high street and advise the busy/slack times during the day/week. They ran efficiently until DCP ceased trading and the noggin had to be retrieved. It is now in Hamfelds but reports have been sporadic since March 2019 and we have requested that this is looked into. The March report showed we had over 2000 visitors to then Showcase Tour. There continues to be a turnover in High street premises although there is only one small plate glass shop empty (what was Little things) at present. Refreshments and personal well being are doing well this year.

Horsham Rural Towns Forum (HRTF) now retitled Horsham District Community Partnership Forum (HDCPF)

We continue to meet on a bi monthly basis and our main contribution this year has been to undertake planning work for the restoration and additional locations of the Blue plaques which can be found throughout the district.

Finance

The Parish Council most generously loaned HCP £20,000.00 so the Leader bid could be completed. All components had to be installed and working before we could claim our grant and without the support of HPC we could not have taken this project forward. The money was repaid in June.

HPC has again agreed to support Partnership with a grant of £750 towards running costs and these costs continue to be in the region of £1000 per annum. HDC have yet to provide a grant of £1000 this year to contribute to running costs and one off project expenditure due to staffing changes at HDC.

Finances are healthy with a good level of reserves for any projects which are identified.

Conclusion

We have continued to work closely with the Parish Council and its officers and are grateful for the support of both the officers and Councillors.

We have also maintained links with other rural towns and continued to support all HDC initiatives.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being the Chairman of HCP with all the challenges and rewards that came with the position. I have met some great people along the way both in and out of the village and know that our Community spirit is alive and well.

I know my successor can count on the full support of the committee and I thank you for all the support you have shown me over the last four years.

Carol Eastwood
Chairman
Henfield Community Partnership
7th August 2019

MEMBERSHIPS AS AT 31st AUGUST 2018**Members of the Board of Directors**

Carol Eastwood	Chairman
Richard Kendall	Vice Chairman
Anthony Druce	Secretary

Management Committee Membership

Carol Eastwood (Chairman)	Volunteer
Richard Kendall (Vice Chairman)	Parish Council rep
Mike Ainscough	Volunteer
Audrey Shaw	Treasurer and volunteer
Lionel Barnard	WSSC rep
Peter Bates	Woodmancote rep
Anthony Druce (Company & Committee Secretary)	Volunteer
Ann Ellson	Volunteer
Paul Crowe	Volunteer
Elaine Goodyear	Parish Council rep
Leo Jago	Volunteer
Kenneth McIntosh	Volunteer
Mike Morgan	HDC Rep
Sue Willis	Volunteer
Ann Donoghue	Parish Council rep
Gill Perry	Parish Council rep
Hugh Daniels	Volunteer