



HASLEMERE TOWN COUNCIL

Strategy 2016-2019



1: LION GREEN CHILDRENS' PLAY EQUIPMENT

The Children's Play Equipment on Lion Green is very popular and extensively used. It is paid for and maintained by Haslemere Town Council. Some of the play equipment has become old, worn and outdated. The soft surfaces under some of the equipment need to be renewed in order to make them safer for children to use.

At the Town Council meeting on 14 July 2016 Councillors were informed that Tesco had very generously made a charitable donation of some £12,000 to the Town Council to be put towards the overall cost of the new play equipment. With money the Council has itself budgeted over the last couple of years this brings the total budget to £30,000.

Tenders were issued and the responses opened in early September. Subject to some clarification, contracts will be let shortly (two – one for equipment, and one for the surfacing). It is expected that new equipment will be installed for November 2016.

Recommended Action:

Current project in progress. It is recommended that when the upgrade of the equipment in the Lion Green Children's Play Area has been completed, the Mayor and a senior representative of Tesco be invited formally to unveil the new equipment.

2: BETTER PUBLIC RELATIONS/COMMUNICATION WITH RESIDENTS TO ACHIEVE GREATER RECOGNITION/AWARENESS FOR HTC

A *Community Engagement Working Party* had been appointed to lead on this initiative and has reported. Expanding channels of communication with all residents is a key objective of this administration, and in beginning to realise their aim, Haslemere Town Council launched a new fully-functional website in 2015. However, it is appreciated that there is no substitute for regular meetings ("surgeries") between ward councillors and their residents.

Certain Councillors host surgeries on an ongoing basis. This is encouraged and all Wards should seek to host their individual advice centres within their own locality.

Hindhead and Beacon Hill is already well-served by meetings arranged by the Hindhead Working party set up by the previous Mayor, Cllr Odell, and Cllr Carter, and is progressing well.

The Mayor has instituted a series of "Meet the Mayor (and ward councillors)" sessions starting with Critchmere and Shotermill on Saturday 1st October. Haslemere Grayswood will also happen on the same day; Haslemere North at a later date in High Lane. Haslemere South has yet to establish a date.

Recommended Action:

Current project in progress. All ward councillors are encouraged to progress this as outlined above.

3: BUILD A PLAN FOR HINDHEAD VILLAGE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NATIONAL TRUST

Haslemere lies within the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and is proud that the **National Trust** was founded here. We are surrounded by NT land.

From time to time issues arise with land management such as water flowing off National Trust Land, coming down Farnham Lane and Polecat consequently blocking drains with silt and sand. In the past some trees growing on NT land have fallen across property and blocked roads. We should like to discuss future plans for Hindhead with the NT, amongst other issues. This should be done before any more planning applications cover Hindhead with houses.

The Town Council's relationship with the National Trust is positive and the Council helps the National Trust with some land management by cutting some grass verges.

It is important that Haslemere Town Council maintains and actively stimulates a mutually beneficial working partnership with the National Trust. HTC could nominate a Town Councillor to establish and drive forward a working relationship and understanding with the NT officers.

Recommended Action:

It is recommended that at least one and maybe two Town Councillor(s) be given responsibility for maintaining a close relationship with the National Trust – one for Hindhead and one for Haslemere is a possibility. All formal meetings should be organised and conducted through the office of the Town Clerk.

4: CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR MSCP AT THE STATION AND SUPPORT THE PARKING NEEDS OF RESIDENTS AND COMMUTERS

In contrast to the view the Town Clerk (with Cllr Round) received from senior management of SW Trains last winter, the single deck construction **is** being built with a degree of future-proofing. We need to watch this carefully and be quick to spot any deficiency in parking capacity so that pressure can be brought to bear on SWT at the appropriate time.

We were recently successful at a public meeting in persuading SWT to modify their design for the Station forecourt so that adequate vehicular access is maintained.

We also need to monitor the standard to which the "MSCP" is being built – to ensure that it is indeed clad in acceptable "green" material; shrub planting and so forth.

A site meeting has already been held with the Contractors carrying out the work, attended by The Mayor and a few others, to establish cooperation.

We need to appraise ourselves of the charging method they will use, and influence it so that it is fair, adequate – and efficiently uses modern technology. It would be an advantage not to have to rely solely on "pay and display".

Recommended Action:

Current project in progress. We should continue, and improve, the present dialogue with South West Trains. Upon completion of the car park the Council may need to seek to campaign for additional capacity on site to meet the ongoing needs of residents and commuters.

5: REGENERATE LESS FORTUNATE AREAS OF HASLEMERE

The working party has considered this project and formed the opinion that, to a great extent, this objective is already served by other tiers of government. It is unlikely that the Town Council, with its limited resources can make much of an impact and would not want to duplicate efforts being made at Borough and County level. There are however two main ways in which the Town Council can support voluntary organisations in the community. Firstly it has established the Haslemere Penny Ha'Penny Trust (see Item 8), which exists partly to deliver grants and support to those in need. Secondly the Council will continue to support local voluntary groups in the work they do within the community.

Recommended Action:

Promote the aims of the **Haslemere Penny Ha'Penny Trust** within the community and continue to support local voluntary groups, but as far as economic objectives are concerned this should be removed this item from our project list.

6: RESTORE THE TOWN WELL

This is a current matter, discussed by the Amenities Committee in August. At that meeting, Cllr Round, Chairman, indicated that he wished to adopt this project and include within it the refurbishment (or "tidying-

up”) of the walk “behind the High St” flanking Swan Barn and, if feasible, connect it to a walk within or adjacent to the Museum grounds. This was agreed.

A meeting is being set up with The Museum with a view to progressing these ideas. It is likely that clearance and much of the ensuing project work could be carried out by volunteers.

No costs to HTC are as yet envisioned. There could be modest costs in improving the access path, or renovating stonework (and a nominal amount will be proposed for the budget), but it is possible that funding could be sought from the business community.

Little attention is needed to the Well itself, apart from removing some accumulated debris. However, the approach (along the side of the CAB) very definitely needs tidying-up. This could be combined with a degree of refurbishment of the Walk behind the buildings on the eastern side of the High St, between the Town Well and the rear of Collingwood Batchelor, overlooking Swan Barn NT land. On all these points, close liaison will be necessary with the NT as well as the Museum. This project should dovetail nicely with the project to increase liaison between HTC and the NT.

In addition, we propose that we should pay attention to the establishment, on a more permanent basis, of the present occasional “well dressing” ceremony as a touristic attraction.

Recommended Action:

Current project in progress. Cllr Round will take this up with Haslemere Museum, the NT, and others as appropriate and report back to Amenities and thereby the Full Council.

7: ENCOURAGE SCC TO RESPOND TO PROBLEMS IN THE TOWN WITH MORE URGENCY

Much of Local Government directly falls under the Statutory Responsibility of Surrey County Council. They, like Waverley, are subject to stringent expenditure controls by Central Government and occasionally they feel the need to cut or restrict services on which Haslemere residents depend. Recent examples include:

- Removing the local youth worker
- Removing the Refuse Disposal Dustcart previously supplied at WeyHill. (Haslemere is one of the few places in Surrey where “The Tip” was removed against the residents’ wishes.)
- Installing a pointless zebra crossing on WeyHill despite objections from HTC

In some of these instances, Haslemere Town Council has had difficulty in getting timely responses to questions it has posed to SCC. It is vital that we maintain strong links with SCC and seek to establish a response from them when we have concerns.

Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Town Clerk undertakes the responsibility of being fully abreast of all matters that are issued by Surrey County Council and escalating them as necessary to the appropriate committee or Full Council for a response.

8: FORMATION OF A HTC CHARITY FOR ATTRACTING FUNDS FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS IN SUPPORT OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

As a result of an initiative from the current Deputy Mayor, Cllr Malcolm Carter, Haslemere Town Council agreed to form a Charitable Trust to offer financial assistance in support of community initiatives which the Council is unable to fund from their annual budget. The ***Haslemere Penny Ha’Penny Trust*** should seek to support organisations and individuals who orchestrate and deliver actions which are beneficial to the Haslemere Area. Funding can be sought for a variety of projects and applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis. All approved applicants will receive a grant in support of their endeavour to serve the Community and improve Haslemere for all Residents of the Area. The Trust should seek to secure funding in the form of donations, grants and bequests from a multiplicity of sources.

Recommended Action:

Current project in progress. It is recommended that Haslemere Town Council register the entity with the Charity Commission (and formal registration is imminent) and appoint Malcolm Carter as Chair of the new organisation. This has been done, with some councillors, and others, as Trustees.