

# What's the most appropriate welcome signage for the town?

LAST week's Horsham edition front page featured a photograph of one of Horsham's entrance signs lying forlornly on the verge in Worthing Road after being smashed in a car accident.

This has prompted debate about the future of the existing signs and the most appropriate welcoming signage for the town.

The signs on the main entry roads were erected by the Horsham Society many years ago and last refurbished about 20 years ago. They are a simple design with a wooden sign board with the word Horsham set within an ironwork frame that incorporates the town shield, all a



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top an oak post.

Annual flowers or spring bulbs are planted below most of them. At their best they are dignified markers of the town's boundary and a welcoming sight for visitors. The image they portray is one of a historic market town.

Unfortunately the signs are now looking tired and for some time the society had been considering how best to

have them refurbished. But the destruction of the Worthing Road sign has prompted questions about whether the signs should be retained or replaced with something more modern.

A few years ago the council, at some expense, erected modern new entrance signs designed to incorporate topical messages about events in the town. By general consent these have not been a success: they are ugly and the wording is too small to be read by passing traffic. Also, if the idea was to encourage visitors it might have been more sensible to place the signs on the A24/A264 ring road.

Personally, I think there is room for both traditional signs and something different to advertise events. It would be a shame if we lost our old signs, they have been there so long they are part of our heritage. I hope we can find a way to restore them for many years to come.

Talking of our heritage, Horsham District Council deserves praise for adopting our idea of creating a list of locally important historic buildings. Horsham has a rich mix of architectural styles from mediaeval to modern.

The oldest are in the main on the national list of protected buildings but the

best of the later ones, including excellent examples from the Victorian period, are currently unrecorded. Many towns already have local lists which serve to remind planners and others of the significance of the buildings and their setting when considering changes.

The council is currently consulting on its proposed list and comments must be submitted by July 26. The document is available as a download from the council website and it is well worth reading.

Finally, to follow up to last week's piece on the state of the Forum, work has begun at last on a lengthy pro-

gramme, in five phases, to repair and relay the surface. It is doubtless a difficult and complex job but it is a mystery why it is going to take until January to complete just the first two phases. As yet there seems to be no completion date.

The Horsham Society is concerned about the past, present and future of the town. It seeks to promote good planning and design for the built environment and open spaces. Membership of the Horsham Society is open to anyone, who shares these concerns. For more information, visit our website [www.horshamsociety.org](http://www.horshamsociety.org) or to join telephone 01403 263870.