

What sort of town do we want for tomorrow? It's in our hands

WHEN you look around Horsham, you can see the effect that past generations have had on the town. Some of the homes that they lived in survive.

These homes cover many centuries and range from the picturesque Causeway to the more recent housing developments.

We decide how much of this is carried forward into the future.

We can choose to protect and retain our present or write it off and replace it.

At the end of the day, change is a fundamental part of the ongoing development of any society, provided due care is exercised by the decision makers.



by **David Moore**
chairman of the
Horsham
Society

For this reason, it's interesting to look at some of the things that are currently changing in our town and ask what future generations might think of our decisions.

One example is the site of the old Nelson pub, which stood on the corner of Trafalgar and Nelson roads.

For many years it served as a focal point for the local community. Now it's gone and all that remains of the

past is a pile of rubble.

Recently, planning permission was granted on appeal for the construction of eight new homes on the site.

However, parking considerations appear to have been ignored on the grounds that the area already has a parking problem so what do a few more cars matter?

This is rather akin to the police not putting up diversion signs for motorists, when a road is closed, and adding unnecessarily to the resultant congestion problem.

It's a good example of where a sensible decision might be ruined by ignoring the infrastructure, in this

case parking.

On the other hand, we have the planned demolition of Bryce Lodge and the David Bryce Club and their replacement with an affordable housing development including 17 houses and 21 flats. This decision seems to have a lot going for it.

These are relatively small though important changes compared to what might lie ahead.

Horsham town is at yet another crossroads, many of which it has encountered in the past.

Decisions will be made on housing construction on a large scale in the area within the remit of Horsham

District Council.

Horsham town is a small part of that area but, unless the correct decisions are made now, the town could be ruined.

The decisions concerning where any new houses are to be built lie firmly within our control.

The council is preparing a short term strategy for managing development, which amongst other things will identify land for new homes.

It is hoped that this will be available for discussion soon. In the meantime, The Horsham Society will continue to take a proactive approach to any future developments to ensure that

it minimises any possible negative impact on our town.

We judge our predecessors on what they left for us today. How will our successors judge us in the future? We all have to use our best efforts to get it right.

There will be no second chance.

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 or telephone 01403 263870.