

Lots more houses but where's our water and new hospital?

MARCH will be dominated by discussion about how many new homes should be built in Horsham District, followed in due course by questions about where they should or could be built. One can guarantee that the discussion will get very vexatious.

However, if we're not careful, we'll lose sight of what is a more important question, namely do we have the infrastructure in place to support the building of any new homes, whatever their number? The answer seems to be a resounding 'no'.

Two examples spring to mind.

A good supply of clean water without any major restrictions is what we all expect and need. We look with horror at what we see in some of the Third World countries and breathe a sigh of relief in the belief that this can never happen to us.

We are no longer surprised when we hear that we have a water shortage in our area and that it's possible that Southern Water might



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

have to impose restrictions on our water usage.

Drought scenarios have become too frequent over the years and, of course, the problem gets worse as we build more homes.

There is a realistic limit to how much we, as individuals, can or should be expected to reduce our water consumption and we need a more proactive approach taken to increase our supply of water, especially if we intend to build a minimum of 11,800 more homes in the next 20 years.

We also have the unacceptable situation, where our primary hospital facility with

acute services is located near Redhill. Getting to and from the hospital from Horsham is a nightmare, whatever means of transport is used, and the hospital is trying to service too large a catchment area.

It's not too surprising to see that Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust, which runs East Surrey, was rated the fifth worst for waiting times in England. We must continue to express our anger at the lack of adequate provision of essential healthcare facilities, while at the same time sympathising with the medical staff at East Surrey, who have to tolerate such a ridiculous situation arising from ill thought through policies.

Where is the new hospital that we desperately need in the Horsham area? Surely, no-one with an ounce of common sense can expect East Surrey to cope with an additional 11,800 homes in the next 20 years? So why aren't we hearing about the plans for the new hospital that we need?

15/3/10
We shouldn't be distracted by developer-led proposals to possibly allocate space for a new hospital if 4,500 homes can be built on greenfield sites north of Horsham. What we want and what we should expect is a new NHS funded hospital to be built somewhere near Horsham with no strings attached.

Let's see some answers to these fundamental problems before we build even more houses. We need some joined up thinking from central government, which has to lead the way. Horsham District Council cannot be expected to resolve these fundamental problems alone.

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 261640.