

# David Moore: new pressure on our crumbling infrastructure



I suspect that all of us are going to be preoccupied over the next few months by the subject of housing. How many new homes do we plan to build in Horsham district over the next 20 years and, probably more importantly, where will they be built?

We already know that we will be enticed with the possibility, however improbable, of a new hospital with A&E services being built in our area as part of the justification for site selection. We have to avoid falling into this type of baited trap.

However, in many ways, we face more serious problems



**Infrastructure problems - potholes in the Horsham district**

if we might allow possible future housing numbers and locations to distract us from our current problems, one of which is the condition of the roads within our town.

Unfortunately, we have a situation where many of

our roads, pavements and pedestrianised areas are in poor condition.

They continue to deteriorate and the limited repair programme seems to be fighting a losing battle. One good example of the problems

that we face in this respect continues to be the Causeway in Horsham.

Its road surface is in a terrible condition in what is supposed to be a tourist attraction for the town.

We have been told that the road should be resurfaced / repaired within the current financial year but it would be useful to know when, together with an assurance that the work will actually happen.

I'm sure that all of us are able to identify other roads near where we live, which are in a similar or worse condition.

So what's going to happen if we build all these new homes over the next 20 years?

Does anybody honestly believe that the large associated increase in the number of vehicles on our roads is going to lead to an improvement in our road

repair programme?

If nothing changes, the situation has to get worse.

We must demand that a different approach is taken to this ongoing problem. It's clear that the county council controlled approach to the roads, pavements and pedestrianised areas within our town isn't working.

We need to have a system where responsibility for these areas either rests with Horsham District Council or where our local council at least has a major say as to what happens and when it happens. We need to be able to control and set our own priorities.

If we can't get this part of the infrastructure right, what chance do we stand when the other key elements of the infrastructure, which are associated with all the planned new homes, have to be satisfied?

We continue to promote Horsham as a place where people want to live and there is little doubt that this is true.

If we don't get the number of new houses, their location and the infrastructure right now, in 20 years' time Horsham could become one of the places that people choose to avoid.

Let's make sure that this doesn't happen to our town. After all, we still want to live here, don't we?

*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 telephone 01403 261640.*