



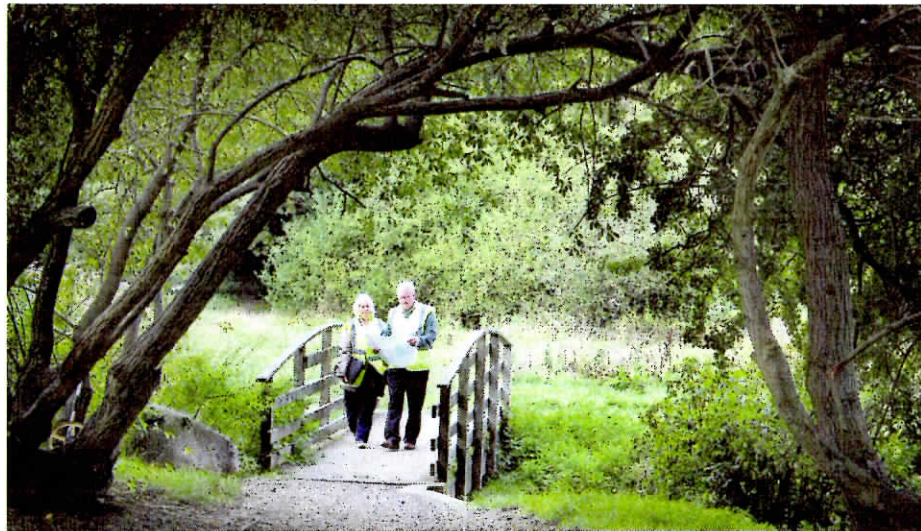
Wonder and glory of our green spaces

Among the essential characteristics of Horsham are its proximity and easy access to the surrounding countryside and our green spaces; they are part of what is good about our town.

The Horsham Society, along with many other organisations, has long been active in protecting these spaces from the threat of development and improving the ease of public access. Regardless of whether the land is owned privately or by a local council we all need to play our part in protecting and enjoying our green spaces so we don't lose any of those we have.

One of our major local green spaces is the Riverside Walk which is 13 miles long and follows the water courses surrounding Horsham - Chennells Brook, Horn Brook, Boldings Brook and the River Arun. Originally an idea put forward by the Horsham Society and assembled over many years, the walk acts as a green corridor linking sites such as the Warnham Local Nature Reserve, Leechpool and Owlbeech Woods and Chesworth Farm.

The Horsham Town Community Partnership was formed in 2010 as a voluntary organisation and part of their action plan is to promote the use of open space and keep community space in community use. Improving the Riverside Walk became the Partnership's first major



A glimpse of part of the Horsham Riverside Walk

project. Working closely with Horsham District Council Parks and Countryside officers the route has been promoted by improved signage, information boards and ongoing pathway improvements.

Consultations with townsfolk identified the improvements people would like to see to the walk. Benches were a high priority, with basic benches in the rural areas and benches with backs and armrests in locations closer to the town. Pathway works include the installation of boardwalks

or pathways with a limestone chipping surface, making them safe and accessible for all ages. The project team have been very mindful of the need to maintain the rural aspect of the walk.

The 3rd Annual Horsham Riverside Walk takes place on Saturday, 16th July 2016 and will start from Horsham Rugby Club at 10am. There is a lunch stop with musical entertainment and a photo competition sponsored by HDC with prizes for the best submissions. People can choose to walk

as far as they like - the full 13 miles or just a short section. A free minibus will be available to transport walkers back to the start. Many people use the annual walk to raise sponsorship funds and this year the project team are working with the Alzheimer's Society to help raise awareness of dementia.

An updated Riverside Walk route map, funded by WSCC, is available at tourist outlets and sports centres. More information can be found on the website - horshamtowncommunitypartnership.btck.co.uk

The Riverside Walk is an example of local people caring about our town and making a difference.

It is through the strength of public opinion and by keeping up the pressure on elected councillors that the value of our green spaces will continue to be recognised and protected.

But at the end of the day the best way to ensure that our green spaces are protected for future generations is to use them.

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 the website www.horshamsociety.org or phone 01403 261905.