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Mr Tom Crowley  
Chief Executive  
Horsham District Council  
Park North  
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Horsham, RH12 1RL

Dear Tom

### **DRAFT HORSHAM TOWN PLAN SPD CONSULTATION**

I am writing to respond to the Council's consultation on the draft Horsham Town Plan SPD.

We are pleased that the consultation draft has taken on most of the points that we raised at an earlier stage.

We consider that it would be further improved by the addition of site specific guidance for Carfax, setting out the importance of continuing to enhance its role and setting as the historic centre of the town. The viability of Carfax as a public space and shopping destination is dependent in large part on maintaining and increasing footfall between the east end of the town – including East Street and Piries Place – and the west. Currently much of this is created by the popularity of the Waitrose store in Piries Place.

Rumours persist that Waitrose are seeking a larger store and there is a possibility it may relocate. The loss of such an anchor store would be highly detrimental to the east side of the shopping area and the east-west footfall. Urgent consideration should be given to how the present Piries Place site, including the car park, might be partially redeveloped to provide space for a larger store.

We also suggest the inclusion of site specific guidance for Blackhorse Way. There is an urgent need to improve this primary entry route to the town and this requires a long term commitment to taking opportunities to improve the rear of the properties fronting West Street as and when they arise as well as possible short term improvements. If Blackhorse Way were to be made one way east from the multi-storey car park it would be possible to create spaces for loading and better facilities for waste management. It would also be possible to improve the safety of the crossing point between The Forum and West Walk.

Yours sincerely

John Steele  
Secretary, Planning Sub Committee