

Billingshurst today and tomorrow

Community-Led Plan 2015-2020

Illustrated by the young people of Billingshurst and its surrounding areas

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|  | | <p>The Seven Key Topics ECONOMY TRANSPORT AND PARKING SENIOR CITIZENS YOUTH OPEN SPACES/ENVIRONMENT COMMUNITY SAFETY HEALTH AND WELLBEING</p> |  |
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Billingshurst today and tomorrow

Community-Led Plan 2015-2020

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Our objective is to encourage the wellbeing of all Billingshurst residents through having the right quantity and quality of recreational and health services and facilities, and access to them.



Our Visual Theme:
'Billingshurst Today and Tomorrow'

Young people are the future of Billingshurst, and the theme is illustrated in our Plan by many of our young people.

We asked them to express the seven main Topics in their own way and to convey, in pictures, aspects of life in our village and its surrounding areas as they see them.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For details and copies of the Plan, please see Page 12.

Why is this Plan 'Community-led'

Some great things have been achieved in Billingshurst. Again, it is up to us to ensure that this continues.

Our vision for Billingshurst is that of a thriving community with our residents, young and old, proud of our village and rightly celebrating our surroundings, our achievements and our future.

In the prevailing economic climate of less money and growing needs, we can still make amazing things happen. We can do it much more effectively together as a community than we can individually.

This Community-led Plan gives us strength locally because it truly represents residents' views. It gives us a real say more broadly with those who can influence our future within our District and County Councils, and other national bodies.



Introducing Billingshurst's Community-led Plan 2015-2020

The changing world in which we live creates countless opportunities for all of us in and around Billingshurst. That is, of course, if we want them and if we seize them!

For this reason, we must all know what it is that we do want for our village, today and for the future. To do this, we must have a 'Vision' for Billingshurst, 'Objectives' to help us get there, and a clear 'Action Plan' setting out the tasks that must be undertaken.

That is exactly what this booklet is about.

Our Plan will be dynamic

This Plan addresses the next five or so years and responds directly to matters raised by the community through faceto-face research. It will be dynamic because we shall review it regularly as things change so that we do not find ourselves stuck in the present or, worse still, in the past. Helping us do that, the community has been, and will continue to be, involved in this process.

Of course, there are challenges ahead. This is because some may like things 'just as they are' while others want to see things 'move on'. And, particularly, the thorny issue of new housing and development must be addressed openly and frankly because the needs of our village and our families change, and we must anticipate that.

This Community-led Plan will ensure that we address the immediate issues and that we find ways to solve them, to seize opportunities that are here today, to manage and

benefit from progress, and to achieve the best for the most.

Meanwhile, we must always pay close attention to those in our community who need individual support each and every day.

That is why...."Our Vision is that of a thriving community with residents, young and old, proud of and rightly celebrating our village and our surroundings, our achievements and our future."

We must continue to make that happen!

1

The Billingshurst Parish Council, the Billingshurst Community Partnership, the Billingshurst Chamber of Commerce, working with numerous other bodies, combined forces to do this.

That is why this is a 'Community-led' Plan.

The process started in late 2012 with surveys, face-to-face meetings and Community Mapping to discover and record exactly what the people of Billingshurst and its surrounding areas want, and don't want. Then, painstakingly, we reviewed and assembled every comment before condensing them into the seven Topics and the Action Plan that follows. All of the original material is available on request via the contacts on the back page.



The thorny issue of new housing and development must be addressed to meet our changing needs.

Taking the right road - together

As we roll out our Community-led Plan, we stand at a crossroads that is full of potential, unique to Billingshurst.

physically, we are at the intersection of the famous A272 and the Roman A29. We are on the main train line to London, we are near Gatwick, and we have the full range of schools from nursery to 'A' level - and an historic High Street. That's why people want to live here.

As a gathering of people, we are also at a crossroads in our development as a community, and this Community-led Plan will unlock an exciting future for us.

Our Plan is not a 'one day wonder'. It must certainly not gather dust on the shelf and what we have embarked upon must continue. That's why we must all keep asking questions, listening, thinking, planning, and delivering now and in the future.



We must take the right path to unlock the potential opportunities that are unique to Billingshurst

No one must be in the dark or in doubt

Open and proactive communication gives this Plan greater strength.

Facts and visible actions reduce hearsay, gossip and misperceptions. We will use every possible communication channel available to us so that everyone can be informed and be included, and 'feel' included. They will also know who to ask if in doubt.

Together, as a community, we can achieve what we set out to achieve - if we want to - and we can celebrate our village today and future generations can celebrate tomorrow.

Thank you for your support, and we ask you in the same breath to help work towards our success as a village and surrounding area in any and every way you can.

Communication with Residents and Public Engagement

Our Communication objective is to establish and maintain positive dialogue with all residents of Billingshurst and surrounding areas and those who can, may, or do have a direct influence on the Billingshurst community. Transparent and Available

It is essential that residents know about the existence of this plan, where and how to find it, and how to liaise with the Drafting Team and those carrying out the Topic Action Plan schedules.

Residents also need to know that every contribution made by every individual in the research and consultation period was recorded and considered. Our sources of information included BilliBiz-The Show, Billifest, Community Mapping (green/red dots selection process), Billingshurst Show, surveys, local organisations, clubs, schools, and postcards in the Parish Council newsletter. It was circulated in draft to the full memberships and constituents of the drafting organizations.

After the completion of the draft Plan, it was again presented to the public in the Billingshurst Show before publication and adoption.

All the original material is available by arrangement with the Parish Office, details of which are at the back of this document.

For copies of the plan, and for contact details, please see back page

The Community—led Plan Team

As many sections of the community as possible were involved in the research and creation of this Plan. Those directly responsible for collating and editing the Topic Action Plan schedules were:

Billingshurst Parish Council:

Garry Commins, Alan Grant, David Hart, Lesley Wilding, Beverley Bell (Clerk).

Billingshurst Community Partnership:

Tony Burke, Denise Campbell, Ken Johnson, Patrick Perks BEM, Owen Davies.

Billingshurst Chamber of Commerce:

Martin Spurrier.

Consultant: Rowena Tyler for Action in rural Sussex.

Notes, Glossary, Terms and Abbreviations

Please note that in the following Action Plan schedules, the following Terms and Abbreviations are used:

Note 1.

'WITH' column:

Please also note that one of the three organisations involved in drafting the Plan will be responsible for taking each of the Tasks forward.

The 'With' column in the schedules indicates with which other body or bodies we shall work and, in certain cases, the organization that has already agreed to lead the Task.

Note 2.

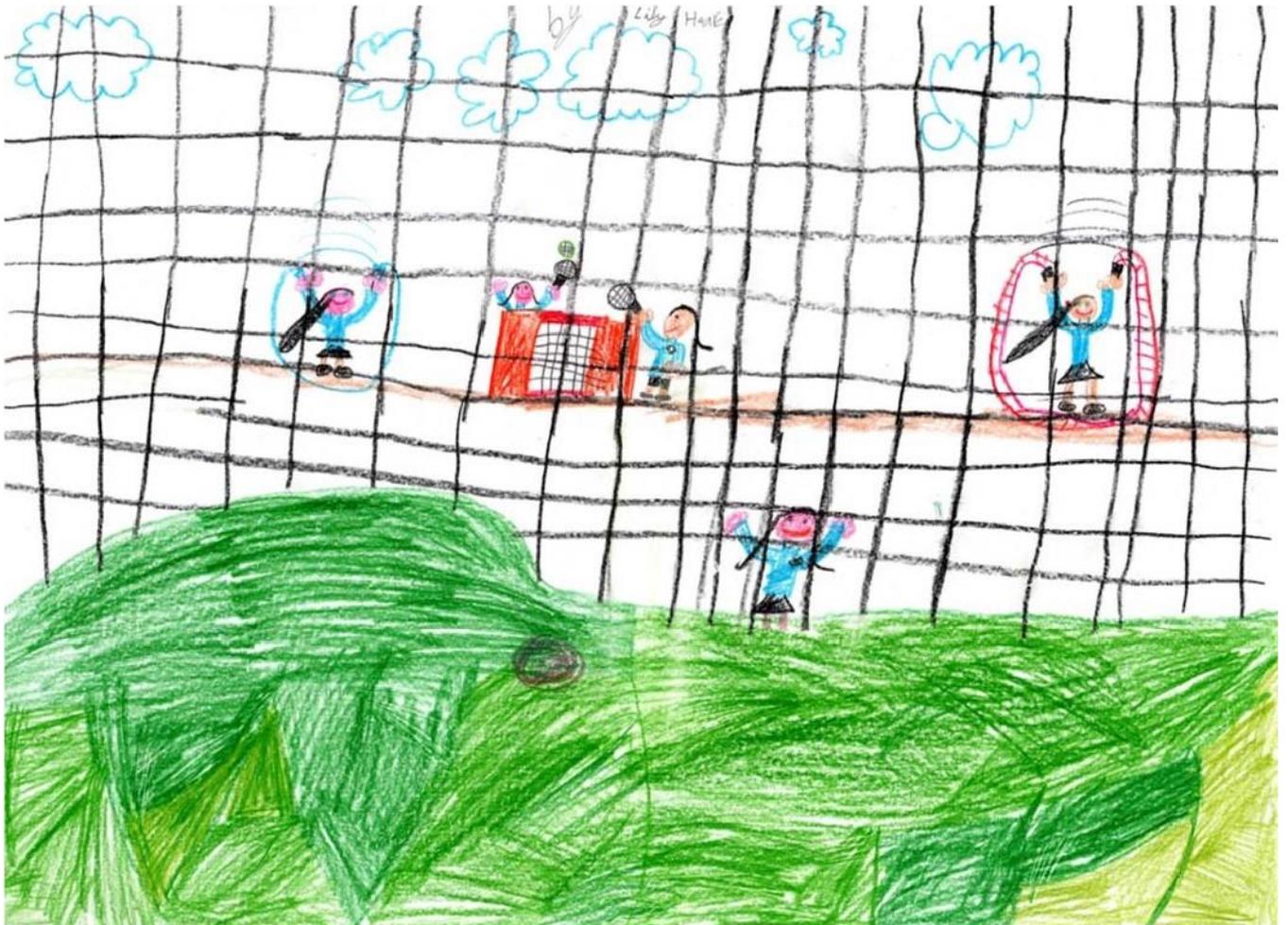
'WHEN' column:

Short: 1-2 years. Medium: 3-4 years.

Long: 5+ years.

I-IDC: Horsham District Council.

WSCC: West Sussex County Council.



The illustrations

The young people of Billingshurst are our future and we wanted them to be involved in this Plan now and as it rolls out. All of the pictures in it have been specially drawn by the children of Billingshurst Primary School and other young local people. They were asked to express their interpretation of the seven Topic and we thank them sincerely.

TOPIC 1

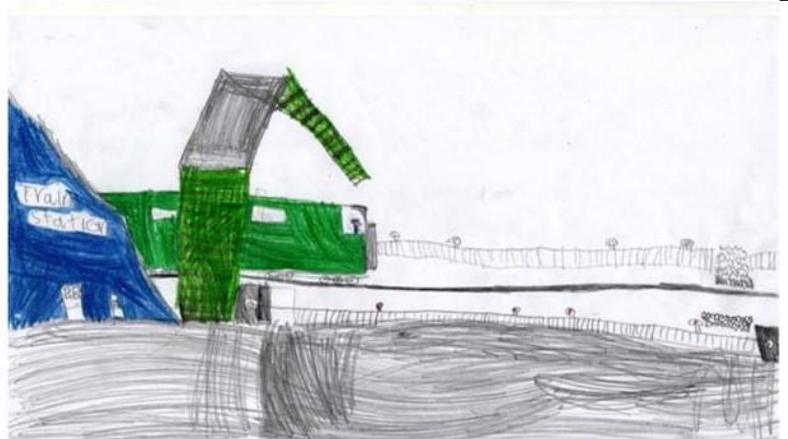
ECONOMY

Our plan and grow a sustainable, progressive and prosperous economy with an attractive and vibrant community at its heart.

| TASK | WHAT | HOW | WITH (Note 1) | WHEN (Note 2) |
|------|------|-----|------------------|------------------|
|------|------|-----|------------------|------------------|

objective is to

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|--|---|-----------------|
| ECONOMIC REGENERATION | HIGH STREET | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Work with HDC on its plan to improve the High Street and Jengers Mead, refurbish and improve retail offering. *Enhance and link the retail and parking areas (see TRANSPORT AND PARKING) *Create a village Retail Plan *Retain the Post Office (also see Jengers Mead below) *Create a better 'ambiance' and encourage a 'family pub' | HDC | Long |
| | STATION AREA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Improve the Station area, through a review of the retail offering. *Create a better area, as above | HDC WSCC Network Rail | Long |
| | JENGERS MEAD | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Work with HDC on its plan to improve the High Street and Jengers Mead | HDC Property owners Developers | Medium/ Long |
| | BUSINESS SUPPORT | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Review rental levels, business rates, and high speed broadband for businesses. *Launch campaigns to promote local shopping and business to business trading. *Review the need for a petrol station and the reintroduction of a regular Saturday Market | wscC I-IDC Commercial Letting Agents | Medium |
| | BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Review opportunities for career change retraining *Review the needs of small businesses and home businesses *Review siting of Industrial Estates and employment opportunities *Create an Employment Plan | wscC HDC Chichester College (Brinsbury) | Medium |



Shopping, the High Street, Jengers Mead and the Station Area are part of this Plan. So are small businesses and employment.

objective is to

TOPIC 2

TRANSPORT /PARKING

Our ensure efficient mobility into, out of, and around Billingshurst and its surrounding areas to underpin social and economic progress.

| TASK | WHAT | HOW | WITH (Note 1) | WHEN (Note 2) |
|------------------|---|--|---|---|
| PARKING | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Schools' area *High Street *Jengers Mead — part of the current HDC planning process * Residential waiting restrictions *Station area *Car Parks (Short, Medium Long Stay) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Prepare an overall Parking Strategy association with HDC *Feed into WSCC current review of Waiting Restrictions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HDC wsc Network Rail Property owners | Medium/Long |
| TRANSPORT ISSUES | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Access to transport *Consider local Park & Ride *Industrial area traffic— enforce HGV routes *'A' roads network congestion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Review what is available and improve or advertise better *Carry out costing review, funding, and develop plan if viable *Review what is possible within the WSCC Roadside Parking Review *Review after new A272/northern relief road in situ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> wsc Mini Bus Assoc. WSCC HDC Mini Bus Assn. Community Transport, WSC wsc | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short Long Medium Medium |
| TRAINS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Trains — insufficient seating *Stops too long in Horsham *Last train back from London too early. *Link train and bus services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Lobbying action *Open negotiations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> wsc Southern Rail wsc Southern Rail and Compass | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long Long |
| BUS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Bus service provision is inadequate or not appropriate *Bus stop and bus shelter | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Review bus service provision *Review of bus stop and bus shelter | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> wsc HDC Commercial bus providers Community Transport | Short/Medium |



objective is to

An overall Parking Strategy and new and better organized car parks are to be pursued. Bus and train services must meet the needs of residents. HGVs, road safety and congestion are top priorities.

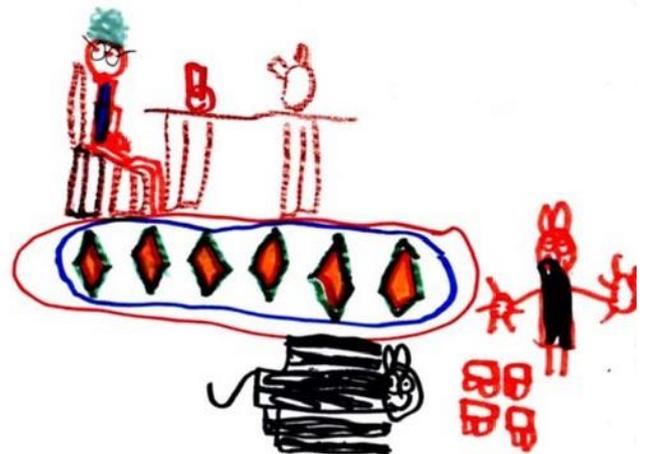
TOPIC 3

SENIOR CITIZENS

Our ensure that our Senior Citizens can play a full and fulfilling role in the community through the enjoyment of inclusion, activities, access and good mobility services.

| TASK | WHAT | HOW | WITH (Note 1) | WHEN (Note 2) |
|------------------------------------|--|---|---|------------------|
| DAY CARE | *There is no dedicated daycare facility | Seek a suitable venue, or a dedicated provision | wsc Age UK Local Retirement Homes Housing Associations | Long |
| SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES | *Inadequate programme of recreational and social activities | *Provide a variety of recreational and social activities for older people. | wsc HDC Age UK Local voluntary organizations Village Agent | Short |
| WALKS | *Gentle enjoyable walks with local nature/interest/history element | *Liaise with HDC, which already does this *Seek other walking organizations and groups | HDC Local voluntary organizations | Ongoing |
| LUNCHEON CLUBS | *Seek a more permanent provision | Investigate regular venue at the Community Centre or restaurant or café on a rotational basis | Age UK Local voluntary organizations | Ongoing |

objective is to



Arranging walks for our Senior Citizens and providing the services and facilities to ensure that can play a cull role in our community is part of this Plan.

TOPIC 4

YOUTH

Our involve young people to make Billingshurst an exciting place to live and work.

| TASK | WHAT | HOW | WITH (Note 1) | WHEN (Note 2) |
|---|--|--|---|------------------|
| | | | | |
| A 'YOUTH PLAN' | *There is no coordinated plan for Young People | *Produce long-term Young People's plan *Develop Youth Council *Peer education and intergenerational support | Weald HDC wsc Community Youth Worker Other groups | Medium |
| EXISTING FACILITIES AND AWARENESS OF "WHAT'S GOING ON" AND "WHAT'S AVAILABLE" | *Promote and give support and guidance to most vulnerable | *Better communication between existing groups and organizations | HDC Churches Family Centre Other groups | Ongoing |
| YOUTH EMPLOYMENT EDUCATION AND TRAINING | *Improve employment prospects for young people *Work with business community *Encourage active participation in volunteering to improve employment prospects | *Youth Employment Passports scheme *'Journey to Work' *EYE project *YES project *Job Clubs *Other Training programmes | HDC Chichester College Churches Uniformed Groups weald School Community Youth Worker | Ongoing |

objective is to

| | | | | |
|--------------------|---|--|---|----------|
| LACK OF FACILITIES | *Provision of dedicated youth facility for youth clubs and activities etc *To provide extra support to Young People and other community needs *Targeted recreational and social activity | *Use existing facilities more efficiently *Closer links with key workers in areas dealing with Young People *EYE building (Education Youth Enterprise) | HDC WSCC Churches Family Centre Schools | On going |
|--------------------|---|--|---|----------|



We need an overall Youth Plan and better facilities for our young people. We also need to provide better career guidance and work with local businesses to ensure that this happens.

TOPIC 5

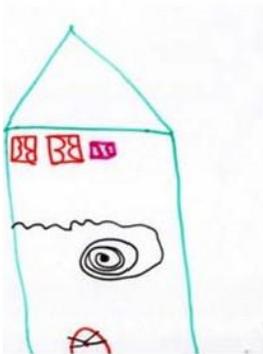
OPEN SPACES AND ENVIRONMENT

Our aim is to nurture the rural character and setting of Billingshurst and surrounding area whilst planning for and meeting the needs of a modern, inclusive society.

| TASK | WHAT | HOW | WITH (Note 1) | WHEN (Note 2) |
|----------------|--|--|--------------------------------|------------------|
| INFRASTRUCTURE | *Gas, Electricity, water, surface water drainage and sewerage sustainability | *Maintain existing facilities *Resist any reduction in services *Lobby service providers to supply adequate services and monitor Development Control to ensure this happens | Lobby Service providers HDC | Ongoing |
| HOUSING | *Affordability of 'affordable' housing *Lack of affordable housing for purchase or rent *Need adequate / type of housing for senior citizens *Improve availability of small homes to rent | *Planning applications should include the required amount of affordable housing in their negotiations *Lobby through Planning System | Housing Associations HDC | Ongoing |

objective is to

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| <p>FLOODING AND DRAINAGE</p> | <p>*Properties are at risk of surface water flooding *Also from river flooding</p> | <p>*Lobbying relevant authorities/bodies *Ditches need to be maintained and cleared to stop flooding</p> | <p>WSCC Environment Agency Southern Water Landowners Developers</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> |
| <p>MAINTAIN</p> | <p>*Open public spaces and play areas *Improving pedestrian accessibility</p> | <p>*Open spaces to be preserved and enhanced. More convenient seating *Address littering, fly tipping and dog fouling *Jubilee Fields — Improve Emergency access *Local walking survey to find pitfalls and lobby on findings</p> | <p>WSCC HDC HDC WSCC Disability and older persons organizations</p> | <p>Ongoing Ongoing Medium Short</p> |



Residents said that sufficient and appropriate housing, effective drainage to resolve flooding issues, and the preservation and maintenance of our open spaces and access to them are important matters. These are all included in the Plan.

OPEN SPACES AND ENVIRONMENT CONTINUED

| TASK | WHAT | HOW | WITH (Note 1) | WHEN (Note 2) |
|----------------------|---|--|--|--|
| PROTECT AND PRESERVE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Conserve and enhance the views, character , history, landscape of the parish *Allotment provision *Maintain and promote existing footpaths and rights of way | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Continue to review and update the Parish Design statement *Include in any future Neighbourhood Development Plan | <p>HDC WSCC</p> <p>WSCC Landowners</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> |
| CEMETERY PROVISION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Lack of burial ground | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Lobby for provision of cemetery and memorial garden for ashes interment | <p>HDC Developers Landowners</p> | <p>Short</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> |
| GENERAL FACILITIES | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Toilets, Library, Mill Way Car park, Surgery, Schools, Station, Community Buildings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Maintain facilities and improve accessibility *Resist any proposed reduction in services *Maintain Community Asset Register *Should be encouraged and promoted as assets | <p>HDC WSCC NHS SOUTHERN RAIL</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> |



The Open spaces, views, character and history of our village and its surrounding areas all contribute to the Billingshurst environment and this must be well managed.

TOPIC 6

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Our Objective is to ensure that people of all ages can live and move about Billingshurst village and its rural areas easily and safely.

| TASK | WHAT | HOW | WITH (Note 1) | WHEN (Note 2) |
|---------------------------|---|---|--|----------------------|
| ROAD SAFETY ISSUES | *Speeding *Traffic calming | * Community Speedwatch * Lobbying for other calming measures *Better signage to and from the bypass and to Industrial Estates *Road Safety Education and Awareness | WSCC Sussex Police HDC Sussex Safer Roads Partnership Schools | Ongoing |
| ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR | *Underage drinking, drugs, anti-social behavior | * Regular Police patrols in those areas affected *Targeted youth work *Support the Street Pastors | HDC Sussex Police Churches and Faith Groups | Ongoing |
| POLICING | *Perceived lack of Police presence *Police Office awareness | * Encourage visible police activity *Advertise its presence more and recruit volunteers | Sussex Police | Ongoing Short |
| STREET SAFETY | *Lighting is poor in some areas of the village *Develop safe walking routes near schools | * Improve lighting *Lobby for Footpath between the schools | WSCC HDC Developers Landowners Schools | Medium Short |
| SCAMS and INTERNET SAFETY | *Mail scams, and unsolicited callers *Social Media abuse and Internet Crime | * Encourage and promote Neighbourhood Watch Schemes *Targeted advice and awareness | Sussex Police Schools Sussex Police wsc HDC | Ongoing |



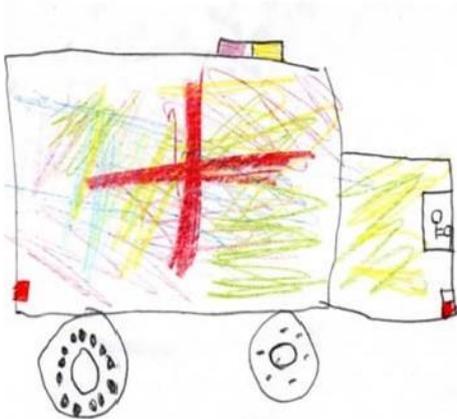
Police presence and support, anti-social behavior, speeding and road safety initiatives are part of this Plan.

TOPIC 7

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Our objective is to encourage the wellbeing of all Billingshurst residents through having the right quantity and quality of recreational and health services and facilities, and access to them.

| TASK | WHAT | HOW | WITH (Note 1) | WHEN (Note 2) |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| RECREATIONAL AND SOCIAL WELLBEING | *Perceived lack of recreational and social activities | *Pass on consultation information to relevant organisations * Review and develop clearer ways of publicising the current range of facilities and activities *Support intergenerational activities *Establish a Communications Team | Sports and recreation clubs Weald school Church and Faith groups Uniformed groups | On going Short Short Short |
| HEALTH SERVICE PROVISION | *Need for more services to be available in Billingshurst *Lack of local Hospital provision *Need for more NHS dentists | *Work with health service providers *Lobby healthcare providers * Lobby | NHS WSCC Health Service providers Member of Parliament | Ongoing |
| SUPPORT EDUCATION AND GUIDANCE | Lack of awareness of how to access advice and guidance | *Work with the Horsham Wellbeing hub, extend the model to Billingshurst | HDC | Ongoing |



The broad awareness Of social and recreational activities and the availability Of medical services are to be addressed

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact details and copies of the Plan

Where can you see the Plan?

Where can you get one?

Community organizations:

All community and service organizations are encouraged to advise their members of the Plan, hold copies, and post it on their websites.

Web sites:

The Plan is available on the websites of:

Billingshurst Parish Council

Billingshurst Community Partnership Billingshurst Chamber of Commerce:

www.billingshurst.gov.uk www.billingshurst-community.org.uk

www.billingshurstchamber.co.uk

Printed copies

Copies will be available at Billingshurst Centre, and the Public Information Centre at the Library.

Publicity:

The Plan was launched to the public at the Billingshurst Show on Sunday 29th June 2014 and made available to the public and to the conventional and on-line media from that date at the website, above.

Questions, Enquiries and Feedback:

Please address all enquiries to The Clerk, The Parish

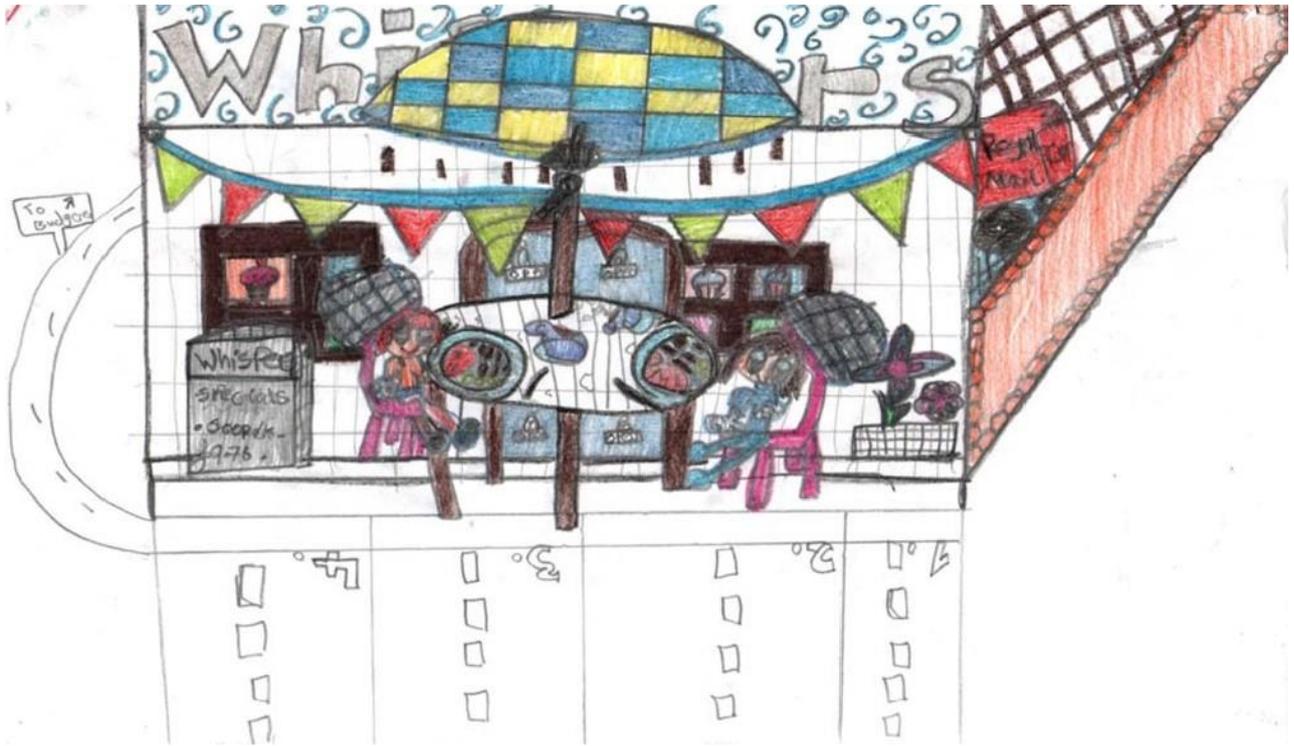
Office or call Telephone: 01403 782555 E-mail: council@billingshurst.gov.uk

Letters:

The Parish Clerk,
The Parish Office, Billingshurst Centre,
Roman Way,
Billingshurst, West Sussex,
RH14 9QW

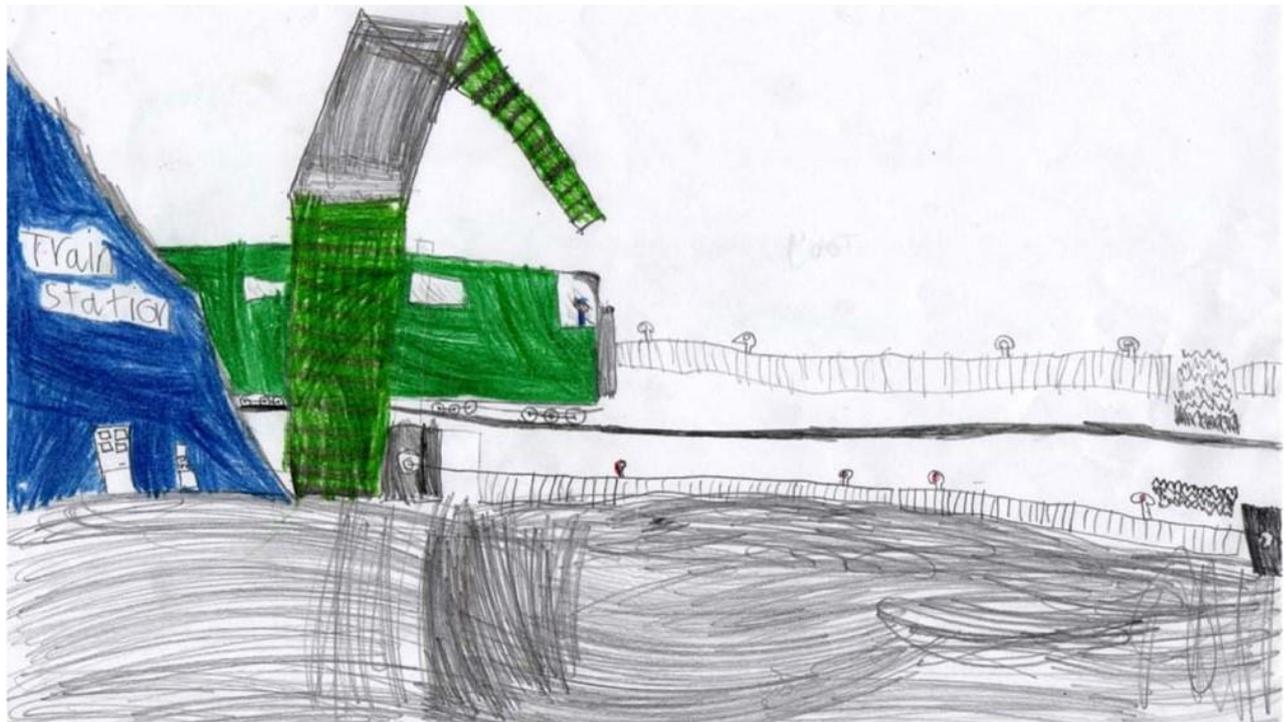


The Economy, business and the retail sector are key to an underlying sustainable community. A Retail Plan will be part of the Economy Topic.



Along with good shopping and convenient and well managed parking, attractive places to eat and a family pub' were on residents' 'wish lists'.

The High Street, village centre, Jengers Mead and the Station area are high priorities in the Community-led Plan.





Horsham District Council

Park North, North Street. Horsham
west Sussex RH12 1RL.

Chris Lyons : Director Of Planning, Economic Development & Property

Billingshurst Parish

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Billingshurst Parish Council

Billingshurst Billingshurst
 COMMUNITY PARTNER SHIP

DIMENSION