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| For office use only |  | Our reference          |  |
| Asset               |  | Delegated Decision no. |  |



## Assets of Community Value

### Nomination Form

Before you complete this form, it is essential that you read the accompanying [guidance](#) notes.

There are strict legal criteria which must be adhered to when nominating assets of community value and we will not be able to consider your application unless all the information is provided.

If you have any queries about this application form email [community.assets@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:community.assets@horsham.gov.uk)

### Submit your completed form

✉ email to [community.assets@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:community.assets@horsham.gov.uk),

✉ post it to: Performance & Assurance Department, Horsham District Council, Parkside, Chart Way, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 1RL marked "Asset Nomination".

### Timescales

We will acknowledge receipt of a completed nomination form within 5 working days.

We aim to come back to you with a decision within 8 weeks of receipt of a completed nomination form.

## **PART A: ABOUT YOUR ORGANISATION**

### **1. CONTACT DETAILS**

*Note: No personal details or information will be made publicly available as part of this requirement.*

|                                      |                                  |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Your Title</b>                    | Mrs                              |
| <b>Your First name</b>               | Sally                            |
| <b>Your Surname</b>                  | Sanderson                        |
| <b>Telephone number</b>              | 07714100826                      |
| <b>E-mail address</b>                | chair@friendsofhorshampark.co.uk |
| <b>Your Position in organisation</b> | Chair, Friends of Horsham Park   |

### **2. ABOUT YOUR ORGANISATION**

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Name of Organisation</b> | <b>Friends of Horsham Park C.I.C.</b>                   |
| <b>Address</b>              | <b>c/o 16 Parkside Mews<br/>Horsham<br/>West Sussex</b> |
| <b>Postcode</b>             | <b>RH12 2SA</b>   |

### **3. ORGANISATION TYPE**

| <b>Description</b>   | <b>Please tick any which apply</b> | <b>Charity Registration Number / Company number (if applicable)</b> |
|--|------------------------------------|---|
| Parish Council   |                                    |   |
| Neighbourhood Forum  |                                    |   |
| Unincorporated Group with at least 21 people on the electoral role within Horsham District or a neighbouring authority |                                    |   |
| Charity  |                                    |   |
| Community Interest Company   | <b>X</b>                           | <b>12177465</b>   |
| Company limited by guarantee   |                                    |   |
| Industrial and Provident Society   |                                    |   |

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|--|--|
| <p><b>Local Connection</b></p> <p><i>Please describe how your organisation is connected to the local area.</i></p> | <p>The Friends of Horsham Park (FoHP) is a volunteer group* working in partnership with HDC to enhance and promote Horsham Park.</p> <p>*12 committee members, over 25 weekly gardening volunteers and over 400 Friends. FoHP works with other charities to enhance and promote the park such as The Horsham Society, The Strawford Centre, Rotary Club, Mens Sheds, Horsham and Crawley Samaritans, WhistlestopArts.</p> <p>See our <a href="#">website</a> and <a href="#">facebook page</a></p> |
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*Please refer to the [guidance notes](#) for more information.*

### **Additional Supporting Evidence**

*Where relevant, please provide any additional evidence which demonstrates that your organisation is eligible to nominate assets of community value.*

*Unincorporated groups must demonstrate that there are at least 21 Members registered to vote within Horsham District or a neighbouring authority*

*Unincorporated group, a company limited by guarantee, or an industrial provident society must demonstrate that surplus fund are not distributed to Members but are applied wholly or partly for the benefit of the local area.*

*Please refer to the [guidance notes](#) for further information.*

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| <p><b>Please list any relevant supporting documents which are attached</b></p> | <p>Appendix 1 Boundary Map<br/>Appendix 2 Horsham Denne Neighbourhood Council letter of support<br/>Appendix 3 Horsham Town Wildways</p> |
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## **PART B: ABOUT THE PROPOSED ASSET**

### **4. ASSET DETAILS**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Name of asset</b>   | Horsham Park   |
| <b>Address or location of the Asset</b>  | Horsham Park, Horsham, West Sussex   |
| <b>Description of the asset and its boundaries</b>   | <p>Horsham Park is situated in Horsham Town Centre (central grid reference TQ175310) and consists of approximately 60 acres of open grassland, mown parkland, sports pitches and some areas of longer grasses, conservation areas and a central pond. The park contains approximately 2500 trees which are a mixture of native and exotic including some impressive heritage trees. <b>This application relates to the green and open spaces in the park including the following facilities:</b></p> |
| Please provide information which helps to clarify the exact location and extent of the asset being nominated and |  |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>a map with boundaries clearly marked in red.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The pond</li> <li>• Sensory Garden (Park House Garden)</li> <li>• Human Nature Garden</li> <li>• Tennis courts and multisports court</li> <li>• Outdoor gym equipment at two sites</li> <li>• Inclusive children's play area with a wheelchair-accessible swing and roundabout</li> <li>• Skate park</li> <li>• Maze</li> <li>• Football and sports pitches</li> <li>• Table tennis table</li> <li>• Bowls green</li> <li>• Bandstand</li> <li>• Poets Corner</li> <li>• Samaritans Bulbs for Lives Field</li> </ul> <p><b>The Park is also home to the following buildings and recreational facilities – but these are NOT included in this application.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grade II Park House</li> <li>• Kaya Café, Park Barn and other buildings in this area</li> <li>• Horsham Park Lawn Bowls Clubhouse</li> <li>• Horsham Boxing Club</li> <li>• Pavilions in the Park leisure centre (gym, indoor and outdoor swimming pools and indoor soft play area)</li> <li>• High Places aerial adventure course</li> <li>• The Rec entertainment</li> </ul> <p><b>See Appendix 1 for a map with boundaries marked in red is attached. The buildings, not included in the application, are marked in blue.</b></p> <p>An aerial film of the park provides footage of the asset and can be seen on our website home page: <a href="#">here</a>. It was sponsored by FoHP to promote the Park.</p> |
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**5. LANDOWNER DETAILS – we strongly recommend that you discuss your plans to nominate with the owner before submitting.**

*The Council is required to inform the landowner, leaseholder and occupants about your bid, and must also let them know the outcome of the Council's decision. Therefore please provide us with as much information as you can about the landowners and occupiers of the land or property you are nominating.*

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| <p><b>Current owner's name and address</b><br/>(if different to the address of the nominated asset)</p> | <p>Horsham Park is owned and managed by Horsham District Council, Parkside, Charts Way, Horsham.</p> <p>Horsham Denne Neighbourhood Council has a Memorandum of Understanding with Horsham District Council regarding the management, use and operation of Horsham Park, as it falls within its area. A letter of their support for this application is attached at</p> |
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|   | <p>Appendix 2.</p> <p>The Council (Horsham Urban District Council at the time) purchased the Park on behalf of its ratepayers in lots from the Hurst family between 1920-1950. For this reason many tax paying Horsham residents believe that the Park belongs to them.</p> |
| <b>Current (if any) Leaseholders name and address</b>                           | <p><b>Horsham Park Bowls Club</b> lease the bowling green area (as well as the clubhouse)</p> <p>Contact <a href="mailto:secretaryhpb@gmail.com">secretaryhpb@gmail.com</a>, Horsham Park Bowling Green Clubhouse, Horsham, RH12 1RL</p>                                    |
| <b>Names of the current occupants</b><br>(if different to owner or leaseholder) |   |

**The nomination must answer the following questions about why the land or building is felt to be of community value.**

**6. DOES THE NOMINATED ASSET MEET THE DEFINITION OF “LAND OF COMMUNITY VALUE” SET OUT IN THE LOCALISM ACT 2011?**

*EITHER:*

- (1) Is there an actual use of the building or other land that is not an ancillary\* use which furthers the social wellbeing or social interests\*\* of the local community?

AND

- (2) Is it realistic to think that there can continue to be non-ancillary use of the building or other land which will further (whether or not in the same way) the social wellbeing or social interests\*\* of the local community?

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| Yes | <p>Please explain why</p> <p><b>Awards:</b> Horsham Park has won several awards over the last 5 years (since our first nomination) which demonstrate its value to the community and that it is a quality green space benefiting residents, visitors and wildlife.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a Green Flag park</li> <li>• The RHS judged it to be Silver-Gilt in the Large Park category in 2023</li> <li>• The RHS rated it ‘Outstanding’ for the community award ‘It’s Your Neighbourhood’ in 2023</li> <li>• In 2022 it was a regional winner in Fields In Trust ‘UK’s Local Favourite Parks’ competition</li> <li>• Defra gave it a ‘Bees Needs’ award in 2022.</li> </ul> <p><b>Value to residents</b><br/>The primary use of the park is for social, well-being and social interests</p> |
|-----|--|

of the local community. Its value was highlighted for residents during the pandemic when it became a sanctuary during isolation and a social hub when people could meet safely outdoors.

The population of Horsham town has grown considerably in the last 20 years and continues to grow meaning park space is at a premium. Likewise, the District is growing. See census information [here](#).

Town centre accommodation is increasingly dense following conversion of nearby office blocks to flats and any new buildings – whether flats or houses - are squeezed into smaller plots resulting in many residents having no or very small gardens.

This means that the green and open space provided by the park is used and valued by increasing numbers of residents, especially as many of the green spaces managed by the Council are allotments, cemeteries and green corridors – with more limited recreational opportunities.

Residents value it for:

- **Physical wellbeing, sports and fitness groups:** health walks, walking, dog walking, jogging, running, Parkrun, physical fitness groups, users of the outdoor gyms, skatepark, table tennis and the children's play area; adult and children football clubs, tennis, lawn bowling, boxing – see the range [here](#)
- **Mental wellbeing:** many residents and town workers report the value they place on being able to walk around the park or just to cross it because the green space is quiet and relaxing. Residents value being able to sit quietly in the gardens, especially Park House Sensory Garden, the Human Nature Garden and WWI and remembrance area.
- **Social activity:** the park is well used by family and friends meeting in the park and enjoying the play areas. Residents and local groups use the park for group picnics, informal games, orienteering and birthday parties/family celebrations.
- **Community recreational events:** the Park hosts a number of community events each year which are free to access including Sunday Funday run by the Rotary Club (which attracts thousands of visitors), The Human Nature Garden is used for small theatrical performances, Battle of the Bands and other events. The bandstand is used by brass bands/music groups for Sunday performances and free entertainment shows for young children are provided on weekday afternoons during the summer holidays. The Park also hosts some ticketed/commercial events such as the Fake Festival, and the Fun Fair and is used for various charity fundraising events and sponsored walks.
- **Access to nature and value for wildlife:** Residents appreciate the opportunity in an urban setting to connect with nature, enjoy the trees, flowers, birds and wildlife in the park. Adults and children – highly value the experience of visiting the duck pond to observe the ducks, swans and wildlife. The 60 acre site provides habitat for wildlife and since the first nomination of the site in 2019 this value has been increased through HDC's programme (working with the FoHP) of pollinator-friendly planting, targeting 6 species to support and recently, working with Horsham Green Spaces to create urban nature recovery Wildways (See Appendix 3). Corridors G and F go through the park and recognise the value of the park as a critical stepping

stone between green spaces in the town. It is listed as a 'Strategic Site' in HDC's Greenspace Strategy 2024-29.

- **Social prescribing and volunteering value of the park:** Social prescribing is now established and increasing as government and local authorities take a more joined up approach to promoting health and well being and try to reduce the pressure on NHS and social care budgets. Examples of social prescribing in the Park include:
  - Social subscribers from local surgeries (and work coaches) sending people to join the FoHP Wednesday Morning volunteers gardening in the park.
  - Horsham Well Being organised health walks in the park.
  - The Conversation Project weekly walk for those with minor mental health issues
  - Volunteering is recognised as a source of wellbeing and in 2023 FoHP volunteers contributed over 3000 of volunteering effort – over 2000 of them by the Wednesday morning volunteer group which has over 25 regular participants.
  - For years the park has also been a place for groups with learning difficulties to volunteer such as the Strawford Centre.
- **Historical significance:** The park contains many wonderful heritage trees planted in the estate of Park House. Although this application does not seek to protect Park House, it is worth noting the historical significance of the landscape and its value to residents. The Horsham Society in collaboration with the Friends of Horsham Park has created a heritage walk around the Park for residents to enjoy – launched summer 2024. The Friends are currently researching material for a book on the history of the Park – publication aimed to coincide with the centenary of the purchase of the first section of the park in 2028.

**Value to the District:** Many of the above benefits are enjoyed by visitors to Horsham Park from the wider Horsham District and beyond. It is the flagship park of the District. For example, many families travel to spend a day here. It makes Horsham town an attractive place to spend time and this in turn supports local businesses.

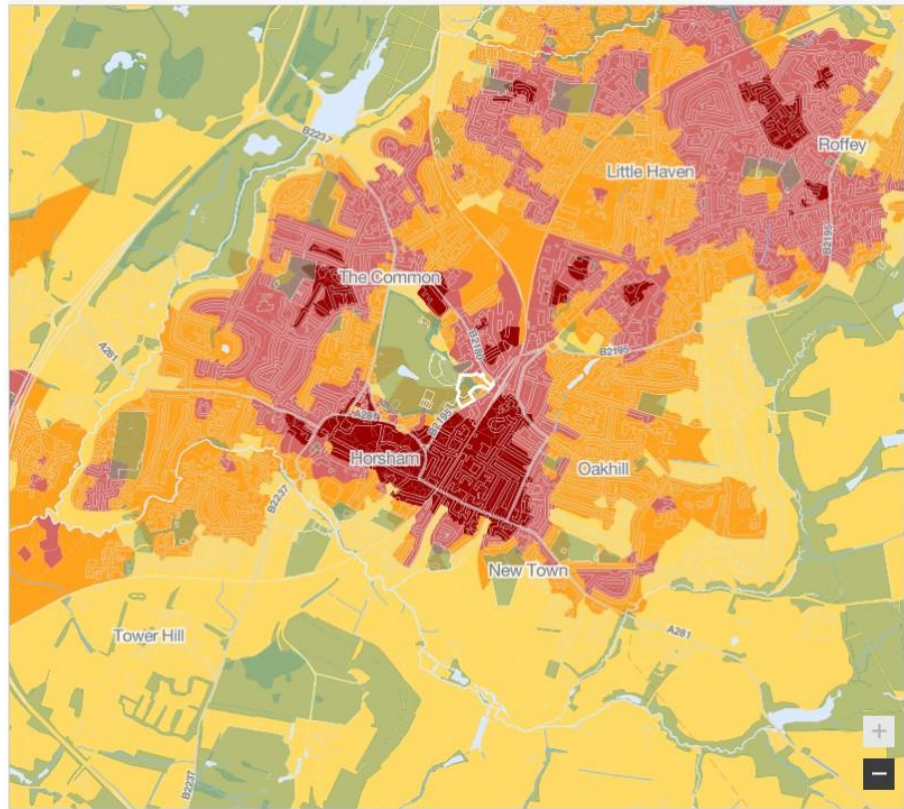
**Value to local businesses:** Local businesses also value the Park as a place for their workers to relax, have a lunch break, play sport and even to hold meetings eg at Kaya Café. The proximity and attractiveness of the Park makes it easier for local business to recruit and retain staff. Employees of the nearby HDC offices also make use of the park. Some of the events held in the park bring additional visitors to the town, benefitting some nearby businesses.

**Economic value of the park:** Research\* from Fields in Trust reports that parks and green spaces across the United Kingdom provide people with over £34 billion of health and wellbeing benefits. Their findings illustrate that the physical and mental well being aspects of Horsham Park alone will save thousands of pounds for local NHS services. \*A copy of the report is available at: [Revaluing Parks and Green Spaces | Fields in Trust](#)

**Climate change:** the park has a cooling effect on the Town – see the heat map from 2022. This will become increasingly important given the



predicted changes to climate with more extreme weather events. The pond is an attenuation pond and helps to regulate water during period of high rainfall and prevent flooding.



RH12 2SA  
Potential hazard score 2



**OR**

- (1) Is there a time in the recent past when an actual use of the building or other land that was not an ancillary use furthered the social wellbeing or social interests\*\* of the local community?

AND

- (2) Is it realistic to think that there is a time in the next five years when there could be non-ancillary use of the building or other land that would further (whether or not in the same way as before) the social wellbeing or social interests\* of the local community?

|     |  |
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| Yes | <p>Please explain why</p> <p>The primary values of the park to residents and local businesses and as part of the green infrastructure will continue over the next 5 years and beyond. Given projected population growth in the town and District it will be of even higher value on every front listed above.</p> <p><b>Future value of the park</b></p> |
|-----|--|



|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | <p>Horsham Blueprint Business Neighbourhood Plan 2019-2036 Section 3: 'A VISION FOR THE HORSHAM BLUEPRINT' on page 12</p> <p>In the years up to 2036, the people of Horsham will live in a friendly, and sustainable thriving market town - a recognised destination set between the High Weald and the South Downs. It will be an inclusive, resilient community that recognises the contributions that are made by the different social groups and people of all ages. Careful development and use of space will have resulted in a town which still feels compact whilst being closely connected to its surrounding landscape through footpaths and cycle links as well as its many green spaces and wildlife corridors, which are visitor attractions to the town. <b>Horsham Park will continue to be the focus for recreation in the town and for the wider local area.</b> The river running through the town also provides a recognised and natural asset, popular with locals for walking and leisure activities and providing access to residential, shopping and recreational areas leading off the Riverside Walk."</p> <p>HDC Greenspace Strategy's 2024-29 includes the protection and value of the park in its vision</p> <p><i>'To ensure that Horsham District Council's Greenspaces are protected for future generations and managed to provide good quality public greenspace for amenity and leisure use, as well as maximising its value for biodiversity, climate mitigation and adaptation.'</i></p> <p>(Noted: this is taken from the draft strategy document as we are waiting to receive a copy of the finalised document once passed by Cabinet/Members).</p> |
|--|--|

**Note:**

\*A working definition of 'non-ancillary' is that the usage is not providing necessary support (e.g. cleaning) to the primary activities carried out in the asset, but is itself a primary, additional or complementary use.

\*\* The definition of social interests includes (a) cultural interests (b) recreational interests and (c) sporting interests.

**7. REASONS/EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF YOUR NOMINATION**

*Please use this space to set out why you believe the land or property you are nominating is a community asset.*

***Provide details and evidence of numbers of people making use of the facility; Calendar/session rotas for local groups and history of use where applicable.***

*The following are examples of organisations use Horsham Park:*

The last public survey on Horsham Park was conducted by HDC in December 2017, completed by 890 people, and evidence to support the value of the park to residents, visitors and businesses was included from this in our successful 2019 nomination.

Examples of organisations using the park include:

## Sport

**Horsham Park Run:** <http://www.parkrun.org.uk/horsham/> and <https://www.facebook.com/horshamparkrun/>

**Outdoor Military Fitness:** <https://www.outdoormilitaryfitness.co.uk/locations/horsham/>

**Horsham Bootcamps in Horsham Park:** <https://www.facebook.com/Horsham.Bootcamps/>

**Organised fitness walks – Horsham Well Being:**  
<https://horsham.westsussexwellbeing.org.uk/topics/being-active/healthy-walks-cycling>

**Conversation Starter Project:** [Conversation Starter Project Horsham Park \(visithorsham.co.uk\)](http://visithorsham.co.uk)

**North Sussex Soccer Academy:** <https://www.facebook.com/NSSAHorsham/>

**Horsham Sparrows Wild Cats** (girls football – summer location):  
<https://www.horshamsparrows.co.uk/horsham-sparrows-wildcats/>

**Horsham Park Bowls Club:** [www.horshamparkbowlsclub.co.uk](http://www.horshamparkbowlsclub.co.uk)

**Horsham Boxing Club:** <https://www.horshamboxingclub.co.uk/>

**Horsham Tennis:** <https://horshamparktennis.com/>

**Horsham Race for Life:** <https://raceforlife.cancerresearchuk.org/find-an-event/horsham-park-north-street-5k-2019-06-02-0000>

## Schools/Community groups eg

Little Monkeys – for play/forest school <https://www.littlemonkeysnurseries.co.uk/>

Springboard for outings - <https://www.facebook.com/pg/thefspringboardproject/>

Strawford Centre for adults with learning disabilities – eg regular volunteers for litter pick in the Park [https://www.carehome.co.uk/day\\_care\\_centre.cfm/id/65432192578](https://www.carehome.co.uk/day_care_centre.cfm/id/65432192578)

## Free Events

**Free Childrens' Fun Events at the Bandstand podium school holidays May- August:**

<https://www.horsham.gov.uk/parksandcountryside/parks-and-countryside/parks-and-countryside-sites/events-in-horsham-park>

**Free concerts Summer Sounds in the Park – Sundays May – August:**  
<https://www.horsham.gov.uk/parksandcountryside/parks-and-countryside/parks-and-countryside-sites/events-in-horsham-park>

**Funday Sunday:** <https://www.horshamrotary.org.uk/>

**Battle of the Bands:** <https://www.instagram.com/horshambattleofthebands/?hl=en>

**Commercial Events:** see <https://www.horsham.gov.uk/parks-and-countryside/horsham-park/events-in-horsham-park>

*Please continue on additional sheet if necessary*

*You may wish to consider this list of examples, but please note that this is not an exhaustive list*

| <b>Examples</b>  |
|--|
| It provides opportunities for networking and connections (it brings members of the local community together)   |
| It provides opportunities for physical activity or leisure or health activities  |
| It provides opportunities for continuous learning and self improvement (e.g. through education, training courses, access to information etc)   |
| It provides opportunities for local volunteering, sharing and donating   |
| It serves to improve and/or protect the well being of children, young people, peoples with disabilities, or older persons in the community   |
| It provides an opportunity for members of the community to keep in touch and communicate with relatives, friends and neighbours  |
| It promotes the health and wellbeing of local residents  |
| It is the last remaining asset of its type in the borough and it is important for the local community to keep it in use as its sale to a non community use would represent a significant loss to the community |
| It provides access to books, music, film, art, or theatrical performances for the local community  |
| It allows residents with a certain faith or cultural background to put that faith or culture into practise   |
| It makes leisure and entertainment activities accessible to the local community (e.g. dancing, theatre, art, cooking courses, crafting, gardening, and other sources of entertainment)                         |
| It is frequently used for community social and recreational events   |
| It is a place that the local community frequently uses for entertainment and recreation purposes   |
| It provides an area for outdoor leisure activities, not necessarily sports-related (e.g. picnics, walking trails, playgrounds and splash parks for children, etc)  |
| It provides sports facilities for the local community to use   |
| It serves as a hub for different sporting clubs and sports teams in the community  |

## Submit your completed form

✉ email to [community.assets@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:community.assets@horsham.gov.uk),

📧 post it to: Performance & Assurance Department, Horsham District Council, Parkside, Chart Way, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 1RL marked "Asset Nomination".