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Tackling Climate Change

Special Issue: July 2021

Join us in tackling climate change and reducing our carbon footprint

Dear Councillor and Parish Clerk,

One of the priorities of Horsham District Council's 2019-2023 Corporate Plan is to reduce our carbon emissions. These special edition newsletters will keep you updated on how we are progressing with our climate change agenda, as well as offering tips and advice on how to find out more, get involved, and reduce our carbon footprint.

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Fast.
Reliable.
Sustainable.

Our HVO trials a success!

Switching from diesel to vegetable oil should reduce our fuel carbon emissions by up to 90%

A large proportion of the Council's carbon footprint comes from the fuel used in its vehicles. We started using Hydro-treated Vegetable Oil (HVO) in all of the Council-owned vehicles in April 2021 instead of using diesel.

HVO is a clean burning bio-based liquid fuel. It is significantly better for the environment than regular diesel or bio-diesel.

We are working with one of the UK's largest suppliers, Certas Energy, who have provided us with a certificate confirmation of sustainability and calculated that the switch to HVO should reduce our carbon emissions by up to 90% (119 tonnes per month).

To date we have had no issues so we are delighted to announce that all our council vehicles will be continuing with this new more environmentally-friendly fuel in the future.

New lighting in our car parks reduces carbon emissions

As part of our carbon reduction programme we will be replacing all the lights in our multi storey car parks over the coming months to LED lighting.

The work has already started in Swan Walk car park where we will be replacing the first 387 fittings throughout July.

It is anticipated that by replacing just the first 387 lights in Swan Walk car park we will be reducing our carbon emissions by almost 19,000kg a year, as well as saving almost £11k in energy bills.

To give you an idea of the scale of this, 1,000kg of carbon emissions is approximately the equivalent to driving 6,000km in a diesel car!

When supplies are back in stock again we hope to complete the remaining more than 200 light fittings over August. Following this we will start replacing lights in The Forum car park as part of an ongoing programme.

When people enter the car parks they will notice that the lights are dimmed initially before fully lighting up as you approach them.





New greener vehicles for our Neighbourhood Wardens

Six new hybrid vehicles have been bought for use by our Neighbourhood Wardens as part of our climate change commitment to reduce our carbon emissions.

Introducing hybrid cars means that the new vehicles will combine a small combustion engine with an electric motor, allowing the vehicles to consume less fuel and emit less CO2 than a comparable conventional petrol or diesel-engine vehicle.

Enabling our neighbourhood wardens to switch to zero-emissions whilst travelling at slow speeds through our local communities also brings real benefits to the air quality of the rural villages and towns that they support.

Our countryside sites prove valuable for wildlife

Flower rich meadows at Chesworth Farm

More than 150 species of wildflowers have been found in the flower rich meadows at Chesworth Farm this springtime.

These botanical surveys form part of the ongoing monitoring program which in turn gives very important evidence-based data to be able to ensure the Farm is managed as effectively as possible.

Why not call by one summer's day this year and see how many you can spot!



[Visit Chesworth Farm](#)

Orchids at Southwater Country Park

Meanwhile, over 7,000 individual orchids have been recorded at Southwater Country Park's annual count this year thanks to the help of volunteers from Horsham Green Gym.

Whilst the wonderfully delicate spikes of Common Spotted Orchid has dominated we have also seen an abundance of the rare Bee Orchid, as well as several others varieties - which just goes to show how valuable the site is for wild flowers.



[Visit Southwater Country Park](#)



Join people around the world who are reducing their plastic waste this month

Plastic Free July is an annual global movement that encourages people to reduce their single-use plastic waste. You making a small change will collectively make a massive difference to our communities. Awareness is growing and large corporations are also getting involved.

DID YOU KNOW: Supermarkets in the UK have pledged to go plastic free by the end of 2023.

Top tips for making small changes

- Carry a reusable bag with you for those unexpected purchases.
- Where possible buy loose fruit and vegetables.
- Take a reusable cup with you when buying a takeaway hot drink.
- Use a lunch box instead of wrapping food in clingfilm.
- Find refill stores where you can take your own container to refill your household items (For example [The Natural Way](#), opened in Horsham in 2019).
- Look out for plastic free cotton buds and straws.
- Find public water fountains / free water refill stations when you are out and about.

[Find out more](#)

Help share the news of our Climate Action work

We are now producing a Climate Change Action newsletter to share our news and stories with the public.

If you think someone you know would like to start receiving a copy please do forward them this email and encourage them to sign up. Thank you.



[Sign up here](#)

Useful Links

[Find out about how we are tackling climate change](#)

[See our carbon reduction targets and action plan](#)

[Learn about the Wilder Horsham District partnership](#)

[Horsham District Community Climate Fund](#)

