

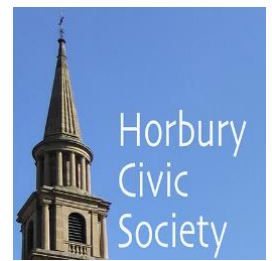
Horbury Civic Society



# Horbury Action Plan

for our buildings,  
environment and heritage

2021 - 2036



# OUR VISION FOR HORBURY – AN ACTION PLAN

## SUMMARY

Horbury Civic Society is a registered charity established in 1968 for the improvement and protection of Horbury's amenities and heritage. It is an independent volunteer run society actively promoting schemes to help make Horbury an attractive place in which to live and work.

The purpose of our 15 year Action Plan is to define a set of actions that will help the Civic Society meet its charitable objectives in the coming years. These actions are intended to be responsive to the imperative of sustainability and cognisant of the challenges, such as climate change, that Horbury faces, and be congruent with the emerging Wakefield Local Plan.

The Action Plan is guided and driven by our vision for Horbury; it is forward looking but mindful of our past.

**The Horbury Civic Society will work to help make Horbury a thriving community supported by appropriate infrastructure and sustainable development; with an attractive built environment; and where heritage assets and the natural environment are appreciated and protected**

We have established three main themes: built environment, natural environment, and heritage, and three timescales for action: (NOW), (1 – 5 YRS), (5+YRS). The specific actions are shown on pages 7,8 and 9.

These themes and actions derived from a public consultation exercise "WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?" which ran from February to June 2021 and which were supported by further public consultations in Horbury Bridge and Horbury Junction 2022. These latter consultations identified a major issue facing both communities i.e. flooding of the River Calder.

# OUR VISION FOR HORBURY – AN ACTION PLAN

## CONTENTS

### 1. INTRODUCTION

- a. Horbury
- b. Horbury Civic Society and the Action Plan Working Group
- c. The purpose, reach and status of the Action Plan

### 2. CONTEXT

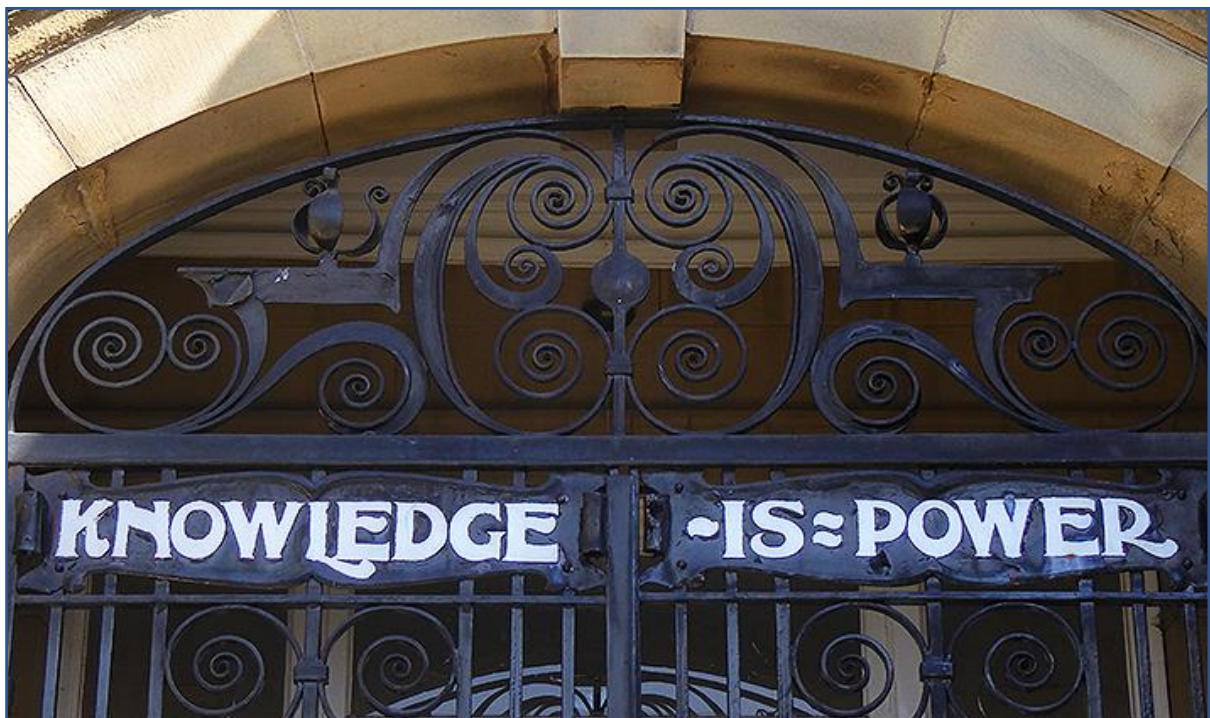
- a. Characteristics of Horbury – a socio-economic and demographic profile, land use and allocations, community resources

### 3. THE VISION

- a. Our vision statement
- b. The evidence – the What's the Big Idea consultation
- c. Key issues identified

### 4. THEMES, PROGRAMME & SCHEDULE

- a. Timescales – short (now) – medium (1 to 5 years) – long (5 + years)



# OUR VISION FOR HORBURY – AN ACTION PLAN

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Horbury is a town in the City of Wakefield, a metropolitan district of West Yorkshire, England, and part of the West Yorkshire Urban Area. Historically in the West Riding of Yorkshire, it is situated north of the River Calder about three miles southwest of Wakefield and two miles to the south of Ossett. It includes Horbury Bridge and Horbury Junction. At the 2001 census the Horbury and South Ossett ward of Wakefield Metropolitan District Council had a population of 10,002. At the 2011 census the population was 15,032. Old industries include woollens, engineering and building wagons for the railways.

Horbury Civic Society is a registered charity established in 1968 for the improvement and protection of Horbury's amenities and heritage. It is a volunteer run society actively promoting schemes to help make Horbury an attractive place in which to live and work.

The purpose of the Action Plan is to define a set of actions that will help the Civic Society meet its charitable objectives in the coming years. These actions are intended to be responsive to the imperative of sustainability and cognisant of the challenges such as: climate change, and on-line shopping, that Horbury faces.





## 2. CONTEXT

The township of Horbury includes Horbury Village, Horbury Bridge and Horbury Junction. It is an ancient settlement dating from before William the Conqueror and the Domesday book. We appreciate Horbury as an attractive township, full of historic character, surrounded by open countryside, on the edge of Wakefield. Although mainly residential it is built on a proud heritage of the woollen industry and railway engineering.

It retains a variety of Listed Buildings and other locally important heritage buildings, many constructed from locally quarried stone.

To protect and enhance it as a unique 'Place' for the benefit of its people Horbury Civic Society is creating an 'Action Plan' for Horbury which will set out ambitious objectives to address the key challenges that the town is expected to face. These key challenges are: climate change, High Street performance, flooding at Horbury Bridge and at Horbury Junction and loss of habitat and amenity.

To ensure that it has widespread support, this will be in partnership with other local community organisations, businesses and schools and consultation will be carried out with all members of the community through as many channels as possible. Although the 'Vision for Horbury' Action Plan will have no powers to enforce changes, the aspects relating to future planning and development in Horbury will provide detailed guidance based on local knowledge and preferences to influence the Council's decision making but remaining within the framework and policies of the Wakefield Local Plan.



### 3. OUR VISION

The Action Plan is guided and driven by our vision for Horbury; it is forward looking but mindful of our past.

**The Horbury Civic Society will work to help make Horbury a thriving community supported by appropriate infrastructure and sustainable development; with an attractive built environment; and where heritage assets and the natural environment are appreciated and protected**

The Action Plan is our programme and schedule to deliver on this vision. The specific actions have emerged for a consultation exercise called **What's The Big Idea** that was held in 2021 and 2022. Questionnaires were distributed and made available via our Facebook social media page. Local groups: Horbury Village Partnership, Friends of Horbury's Parks, Pride in Horbury Bridge and Horbury Historical Society were consulted and virtual meetings were held with a group of senior pupils at Horbury Academy; their views helped shape our Plan.

We asked respondents to consider fourteen subject areas as follows:

Horbury's appearance; Horbury's public amenities; Horbury's nature conservation; Horbury's flood resilience, Horbury's leisure and learning opportunities; Horbury's town centre; Horbury's energy efficiency; Horbury's cultural life; Horbury's health; Horbury's heritage protection, Horbury's riverside area; Horbury's employment prospects; Horbury's digital future and 'anything else'.

#### Key issues identified

Overall, the responses were consistent in addressing the areas of most concern: the appearance of the town centre, the amenities of Carr Lodge Park, flooding at Horbury Bridge and Horbury Junction, the amenities of the riverside and canal area and Horbury Lagoon, and the protection of Horbury's heritage assets, particularly Horbury Hall.



## 4. THEMES, PROGRAMME & SCHEDULE

We have established three main themes: 1) built environment, 2) natural environment and 3) heritage, and three timescales for action: (NOW), (1 – 5 YRS), (5+YRS)

### THEME 1 – HORBURY’S BUILT ENVIRONMENT – TIMESCALE: NOW

- 1.1 Seek engagement with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) on proposals for reopening a railway station serving Horbury
- 1.2 Plan public Action Plan consultation events for early 2022 to sign off the Action Plan and engage with Wakefield Council (the Council) and other stakeholders to agree its implementation over a period (this consultation to pick up any local issues facing poorer parts of the community)
- 1.3 Participate in the Local Plan Examination in Public to expand on representations made by Horbury Civic Society (HCS)
- 1.4 Seek funds to purchase new planters and new benches for the town centre and for the illumination of the birch tree in Stan Barstow Garden
- 1.5 Seek engagement with the Council regarding environmental concerns at the Engine Lane area through to Horbury Bridge (including loss of Green Belt, loss of woodland, air pollution, possible river pollution and lack of advertising control)
- 1.6 Seek incorporation of a Council services One-Stop Centre within the Library?
- 1.7 Promote free town centre wifi
- 1.8 Discuss with the Council the parts of the Action Plan that can be adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)
- 1.9 Discuss with the Council the updating of the Statement of Community Involvement
- 1.11 Explore with Network Rail the idea of creating a large solar farm at the railway sidings
- 1.12 Explore the possibility of creating local energy networks based on renewable sources for parts of Horbury
- 1.13 Contact Network Rail to discuss improvements to ‘Scary Bridge’ which crosses the River Calder near Horbury Junction

### THEME 1 – HORBURY’S BUILT ENVIRONMENT – TIMESCALE: 1 – 5 YRS

- 1.14 In co-operation with the Council, HCS to develop a Design Code for Horbury that establishes agreed standards for any new residential development
- 1.15 Request enforcement of the High Street 20 mph speed limit and extend footway widths as traffic calming and to accommodate more on-street activity
- 1.16 Discuss possibility of traffic free days to enable farmer's markets/craft fairs/performance etc in Queen Street.
- 1.17 Commission a ‘gateway’ public artwork
- 1.18 Seek early consultation status from the Council on any redevelopment proposals at Engine Lane through to Horbury Bridge.

## THEME 1 – HORBURY’S BUILT ENVIRONMENT – TIMESCALE: 5+YRS

- 1.19 Support re-opening of railway station serving Horbury
- 1.20 Support for an improved public transport system linking Horbury to Wakefield and Ossett and Huddersfield
- 1.21 Seek replacement of lost woodland and fully landscaped public footpath between Horbury Bridge and Addingford Mill as part of any redevelopment of the Engine Lane area
- 1.22 Attempt to bring together the agencies responsible for flood mitigation at Horbury Bridge and Horbury Junction i.e. Environment Agency, Canal and Rivers Trust, Yorkshire Water and Wakefield Council
- 1.23 Explore the possibility of creating local energy networks based on renewable sources for parts of Horbury

## THEME 2 – HORBURY’S NATURAL ENVIRONMENT – TIMESCALE: NOW

- 2.1 Lobby the Council for creation of a Carr Lodge Park development plan for improvement of facilities in consultation with Friends of Horbury’s Parks (FoHP)
- 2.2 Lobby the West Yorkshire Mayor for more electric charging points for vehicles
- 2.3 Ask the Council to think about a Lagoon Area Development Plan (already included in the Leisure Opportunity Area designation)
- 2.4 Support the FoGP plan for Green Park (included within Green Belt)
- 2.5 Support protection of Spring End Lake as a Local Wildlife Site in the Local Plan
- 2.6 Develop proposals for improvements of the local public footpath network for walkers, cyclists and horse riders and seek partners for its implementation
- 2.7 Check with local allotment society whether there are sufficient allotments. If we should aim to identify suitable land close to areas of need for new ones
- 2.8 Explore the potential of the Old Changing Rooms in Carr Lodge Park as a community facility
- 2.9 Meet with Wakefield Council to discuss strategies for convening an all party forum (Environment Agency, Yorkshire Water and the Canal & River Trust) to look at flooding issues at both Bridge and Junction.



## THEME 2 – HORBURY’S NATURAL ENVIRONMENT – TIMESCALE: 1 – 5 YRS

- 2.9 Implementation of Carr Lodge Park development plan
- 2.10 Implementation of the footpath improvement programme
- 2.11 Investigate the potential for energy generation at the R. Calder weir and any other potential renewable energy projects
- 2.12 Work in partnership with Council, Canals & Rivers Trust, Natural England and others to protect the natural environment of the important wildlife corridor of the Calder riverside and canal area and to improve riverside walks
- 2.13 Develop an environmental awareness programme for Horbury’s school pupils
- 2.14 Meet with Wakefield Council to discuss strategies for convening an all-party forum (Environment Agency, Yorkshire Water and the Canal & River Trust) to look at flooding issues at both Bridge and Junction.
- 2.15 request that Wakefield Highways provide a traffic analysis for Horbury Bridge so that a strategy to mitigate the worst issues can be evolved.

## THEME 2 – HORBURY’S NATURAL ENVIRONMENT – TIMESCALE: 5+ YRS

- 2.16 Continued implementation of Carr Lodge Park development plan
- 2.17 Continued implementation of the footpath improvement programme
- 2.18 Request that the Council produces a Lagoon Area Development Plan?
- 2.19 Request a review of the licence for future sand and gravel extraction on the Strand and the Wyke so that eco-park developments (wildlife conservation, woodland development, and others) can be put forward
- 2.20 Seek the creation of new riverside access through a new landscaped public footpath between Horbury Bridge and Addingford Mill

## THEME 3 – HORBURY’S HERITAGE – TIMESCALE: NOW

- 3.1 Submit nominations to the Council for additions to the Local List of Heritage Assets
- 3.2 Lobby the Council to bring Carr Lodge Park, Memorial Garden, and the Town Hall buildings complex into the existing Conservation Area or into new Conservation Areas
- 3.3 Explore routes to the acquisition and development of Horbury Hall for community use (it is a Grade 1 Listed Building at risk)
- 3.4 Progress QR Code Trail NO:2
- 3.5 Continue to bring the work of professional artists to Horbury via Redbox Gallery exhibitions
- 3.6 Develop and lead a series of Industrial Heritage walks
- 3.7 Work with the Council to include Horbury in the Wakefield City of Culture bid or its successor

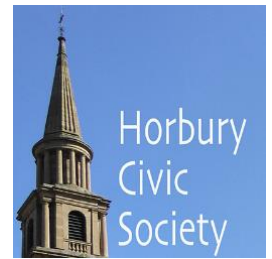
### THEME 3 – HORBURY’S HERITAGE – TIMESCALE: 1- 5 YRS

- 3.8 Work (with others) on an exhibition of Horbury’s history
- 3.9 Lobby for the restoration and development of Horbury Hall as a community facility
- 3.10 Work with others on a 2022 celebration of the life and work of William Baines, a 2023 celebration of the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of John Carr and a 2024 celebration of Sabine Baring Gould.

### THEME 3 – HORBURY’S HERITAGE – TIMESCALE: 5+ YRS

- 3.11 Continue to lobby for the restoration and development of Horbury Hall as a community facility

## 5. PARTNERS



The Action Plan Working Group is composed of the following Members of the Civic Society: Graham Roberts (Chair), John Ramsden, Jill Thomas, Darren Byford\*, Deb Nicholls, Peter Brown\*, Helen Bickerdike\* and Jeff Casey\*.



- \*Darren Byford represents Horbury Village Partnership
- \*Peter Brown represents Horbury and District Historical Society
- \*Helen Bickerdike represents Horbury and Sitlington History Group
- \*Jeff Casey represents Pride in Horbury Bridge