A HERITAGE BLUE PLAQUE SCHEME FOR THE HORSLEYS

A proposal for discussion by the Horsley Heritage Group ('HHG')

Objective To raise awareness of the range and quality of heritage assets across the Horsleys for the interest and enlightenment of both residents and visitors.

Heritage Base There are 119 designated heritage structures in the Horsleys of which 89 are listed, 12 are locally listed in East Horsley and 18 are designated in the West Horsley Neighbourhood Plan. Appendices 1 & 2 show the full list. Additional non-designated structures may also have heritage significance, including certain Chown houses built in the 1930's, further increasing the heritage base of the villages.

Selection criteria Candidates for a HHG blue plaque would be selected based upon their historical significance and/or architectural merit. Buildings should be clearly visible from a public space and have a suitable space to erect a blue plaque where it may easily be seen. Owner consent would, of course, also be required. Due to their particular characteristics, it is not proposed to include West Horsley Place, the De Vere Horsley estate, historic churches nor the Lovelace Bridges within this plaque scheme.

Proposed roll-out HHG proposes to install 20 blue plaques in the first year of the scheme - 10 in East Horsley and 10 in West Horsley. Selection would be made by a HHG panel. Providing local reaction is generally supportive, the scheme would be continued in subsequent years, when residents would be encouraged to nominate their favourite buildings. We estimate 30 – 40 plaques per village would be a realistic target after four years.

The plaques Plaques are proposed to be circular with a diameter of 20 cm and to have a blue background with white raised lettering. They would be made of cast aluminium. An example of plaque text and format is given in Appendix 3. At least three potential UK suppliers have been identified with internet prices of between £137 to £150 per plaque. A single plaque will be ordered initially and, providing the result is satisfactory, a larger order would then be placed and a volume discount sought.

Installation Plaque positioning will be agreed with the house owner, who would also be invited to install the plaque on their own property. Plaques would be glued using a modern adhesive such as 'No More Nails'. The services of the village warden would be offered.

Supporting details Information given on the plaque is limited by its size. However, a new heritage section on the two parish council websites will give further supporting details about each building. An example can be found on the Cobham Heritage website at www.cobhamheritage.org.uk/our-work/projects/blue-plaques.

Cost to the Parish Councils Based on an installation of 10 plaques per village, the estimated cost to each parish council would be around £1,500 for the first year of the scheme. Assuming the scheme is continued, a similar figure may be required annually for several years.

Horsley Heritage Group, blue plaque team
05/06/24