



HART DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF PARISH & TOWN COUNCILS

**Agenda for a Meeting of the Association to be held on
Tuesday, 18 April 2023 at 7.30 pm
In the Function Room, The Harlington, Fleet, GU51 4BY**

AGENDA

V1.1 14/4/23

23/1	Introductions and welcome	
23/2	Apologies for absence	
23/3	Minutes of 17 January 2023 (available from www.hdaptc.wordpress.com)	
23/4	Matters arising from the minutes	
23/5	Hart District Council report – Mark Jaggard (see attached list of questions)	MJ
23/6	Parish questions for Hart District Council (Please submit questions to both the Chairman and to the relevant officer at Hart, at least 3 days in advance of the meeting, so that comprehensive answers can be prepared. Questions must be about strategic matters only. Questions received so far will be issued to members by email before the meeting)	All
23/7	Appointment of 3 HDAPTC members of the Hart Standards Committee Current members Trish Monks, David Argent, 1 vacancy	
23/8	Chairman's Update	JW
23/9	Parish reports (Brief written reports from Parishes submitted in advance for attachment to the Minutes or verbal updates)	All
23/10	Any other business	
23/11	Date and venue for next meeting: 4/7/23 – venue TBC. NOTE: Please contact the Secretary or Chairman if you are able to host the meeting.	

Martin Whittaker, Secretary, HartDAPTC@gmail.com



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Questions for Mark Jaggard received before the meeting:

Meyrick Williams (WI):

- 1) When will HDC be consulting on upgrading the current TAN on parking to become a SPD and part of the Local Plan?
- 2) Could he provide an update on the 3 Planning enforcement issues that are current in Winchfield?

Trish Monks (BH)

- 3) What are HDC doing to provide Traveller Transit sites? Town & Parish councils are suffering the practical & financial burden of there being insufficient places for travellers to stop. More transit sites will give less excuse for illegal encampments and strengthen the powers of the police in moving them on.

We are writing to ask Hart District Council to seriously consider developing transit sites for Traveller groups in order to reduce the number of illegal encampments which take place on Parish and Town Council land across the District on an annual basis.

The lack of such sites means that Travelling families looking for somewhere to stay resort to using public spaces such as those owned and managed by Blackwater and Hawley Town Council. In each of the last three years we have had two Traveller incursions on our land over the summer months, despite increasingly inconvenient measures to try and prevent them.

In the interest of safety, each time this has happened we have had to close down our facilities until the groups are moved on. This means that residents are unable to enjoy their activities, many of which are essential to mental and physical wellbeing, and we lose substantial amounts of money upon which we rely to stay viable.

Aside from the lost revenue, each time we have an incursion, we suffer costs in terms of repairs to damaged barriers, grass, CCTV and lighting, clean-up of human excrement and household waste, bailiff fees and on occasion additional security assistance.

We estimate that direct costs on each occasion are approaching £4,000 and lost revenue for a full weekend would be around £5,000 if the sun is out, cricket matches are booked, etc. In order for us to avoid the financial difficulties being experienced by so many councils, especially in the face of increasing costs, we clearly cannot afford to sustain this sort of financial blow. If this happens twice a year every year, we have little chance of replacing our dilapidated playpark, or providing youth services to try and reduce the local levels of vandalism. It's a waste of time and money.

If this is the same for each Parish and Town Council in the District, that is a huge sum of money being borne by entities who have limited financial resources when it is outside our powers to provide the transit sites which may help avoid these issues.

We feel it is unfair for Parish and Town Councils to be suffering these costs when Hart District council have made no move to provide transit sites for Travellers. If transit sites were available it may reduce unwanted incursions and it will also strengthen the powers of the police in moving illegal encampments on when there is a legal alternative in the District.

We feel this needs a proactive approach from Hart, as has happened in Surrey Heath, as the current lack of such sites is severely impacting our Town Council and those in the surrounding area.

I look forward to hearing your position on this.