

to English Partnerships and a developer appointed<sup>80</sup> but no firm proposals or planning application have yet been submitted.

**3.10** A third significant potential development in the area is the outline application for a new settlement at Dunsfold Park (formerly the Dunsfold Aerodrome), some seven miles south of Godalming, comprising 2,601 new dwellings; associated buildings such as schools and shops; and buildings for commercial use and to provide employment including offices, light & general industrial use and storage & distribution use. The Joint Planning Committee of Waverley Borough Council rejected this application in September 2008 but the developer has appealed and ultimately this will be a decision made by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government following a public inquiry.

**3.11** In 2006 land adjoining the A3 at Eashing was put forward as a 'preferred minerals zone' or PMZ for the excavation of soft sand in the draft Surrey Minerals Plan. Local residents are very concerned about the impact of a large quarry in the area and do not accept that extraction will be limited to soft sand. They have been arguing that there will be a commercial incentive to quarry other materials which will be more damaging and disruptive to extract, in particular the local stone (Bargate stone) which has been used in many of the historic buildings in the Godalming area and which is not currently being quarried. The residents have formed themselves into a group to campaign against the inclusion of the site at Eashing in the next Minerals Plan<sup>81</sup>. Surrey County Council has now accepted that Bargate stone is also likely to be extracted at the site<sup>82</sup>. Godalming Town Council has registered a strong objection to the proposal for a quarry at Eashing, reflecting the considerable local concern. In addition English Nature has recently indicated its opposition to the site due to the presence of an SSSI on the boundary of the site. The process of selection of sites is ongoing and the estimated final adoption date for the Minerals Plan is currently September 2010<sup>83</sup>.

**3.12** There is constant pressure on "brownfield land" within the town to provide infill development or the replacement of dwellings with residential properties at a higher density. This leads to vigorous objections from local residents often concerned with the potential problems caused by additional car parking and congestion. Successive planning applications for development in Peperharow Road are an example<sup>84</sup>.

### Waste and Recycling

**3.13** Waverley Borough Council has, in recent years, achieved a significant improvement in recycling rates<sup>85</sup>. Across the borough there is fortnightly kerbside collection of glass, metals, paper and plastic bottles. Waverley Borough Council also offers various schemes to encourage the home composting of food waste<sup>86</sup>.

**3.14** Disposal of food waste is an unresolved issue. Trials for collection of food waste run in 3 areas outside Waverley by Surrey County Council last year did result in high levels of participation. Waverley Councillors say that the costs of introducing a similar system to all households in Waverley are too great at the moment<sup>87</sup>. WBC is not directly responsible for collection and disposal of the substantial amounts of food waste created by businesses<sup>88</sup>.

**3.15** Waste and recycling issues for residents emerged as a major issue for the Borough during the 2005 elections to Waverley Borough Council. This followed the publication of proposals to introduce the system known as Alternate Weekly Collection in 2006/7. As part of this healthcheck over 220 local families took part in a survey<sup>89</sup> conducted with assistance from pupils at Rodborough Technology College and Broadwater School, to elicit views about the new waste collection arrangements.

**3.16** The survey found that over 90% of households took full advantage of kerbside collection to send their glass, newspaper and plastic bottles for recycling; but more than a third of households found their wheelie bins could not contain all the non-recyclable waste accumulated over a fortnight. More than

80% of households indicated that they would like to see cardboard waste added to the items included in kerbside recycling. 70% of households said that they have to take cardboard waste to the recycling points at Sainsbury's and Crown Court. It is therefore evident that the inclusion of cardboard waste in the kerbside collection of recyclables would save a substantial number of journeys to recycling points.

**3.17** However, Waverley Borough Council has recently concluded that kerbside collection of cardboard would not be economic for the foreseeable future; and has instead introduced more frequent collection of cardboard from the 'tanks' at the two recycling centres in Godalming<sup>90</sup>. This may go some way to improving the readiness of households to take cardboard to these centres; but the absence of kerbside collection for cardboard combined with the very limited number of recycling points will mean that for the time being much cardboard will continue to be put in wheelie-bins and sent to landfill.

**3.18** A separate survey of some 50 local businesses (half of them retail businesses, and half employing fewer than 15 staff) was undertaken for the Healthcheck by staff and pupils of Priors Field School to establish what these businesses did with their waste<sup>91</sup>. Twenty-two of these organisations said that they did no recycling – though in some cases their waste may subsequently be sorted by the company that collects the commercial waste in the area into recyclable and non-recyclable waste before final disposal. More generally, it was apparent from responses to this survey that many, especially the smaller businesses, had limited appreciation of waste issues; and had no considered policy to reduce the waste they created or to increase the amount sent for recycling. Over 50% of businesses complained of the excessive packaging and wrapping in which goods were supplied to them.

**3.19** By contrast with the small businesses, one of the largest commercial operations in the town, which belongs to a national chain of

supermarkets, has comprehensive recycling policies in operation; but these are organised centrally from their head office<sup>92</sup>.

### Other Environmental Issues Affecting the Town

**3.20** It is clear that many of the issues influencing and threatening the quality of Godalming's and Farncombe's environment relate to transport. These are dealt with in the Transport chapter of this report, and the recommendations for action in that chapter are designed as much to improve the town's environment as to facilitate the mobility of its people. We deal here with other issues that require attention, if the local environment is to be safeguarded and improved.

**3.21** Limited information is provided to enable visitors, particularly those arriving by car, to find some of the town's main attractions<sup>93</sup>. There are many signs indicating where parking is available but no information is given to indicate the better car parks for longer stays for tourists or day-trippers. There is moreover no indication of the number of parking places available in each car park; information that many towns provide<sup>94</sup>.

**3.22** Signs directing motorists to the other local historic towns are limited; as an example drivers, particularly those who are not local residents, trying to reach Farnham from Godalming, struggle<sup>95</sup>.

**3.23** There are aspects of Godalming's appearance that are not satisfactory, for instance:

- rubbish accumulates in some places but is never collected – this is particularly the case if it is thrown onto land adjacent to the pavements or highways – i.e. beyond the areas cleaned by the authorities<sup>96</sup>. This is also a problem in some parts of the hinterland: Station Lane in Milford, which is a pedestrian route to Milford from the Station, is a good example<sup>97</sup>.
- the number and size of the potholes in the roads and the time it takes to get them repaired. This is the source of considerable

public concern and irritation – as evidenced by the many letters to local newspapers on this topic<sup>98</sup>. Maintaining the carriageways of the public highways in the area is the responsibility of Surrey County Council, which has contracted out this work. Potholes are identified by the contractors but members of the public also provide information often using the page on the SCC website for this purpose. Once reported, it can still take several months for the contractors to repair potholes<sup>99</sup>.

- There are parts of the carriageway of Church Street that have been inappropriately repaired. Surrey County Council has used tarmac to repair and replace the surfaces instead of the proper sets in at least 6 places. One of these areas is quite large<sup>100</sup>. There are sections of the area available for pedestrians that are particularly poorly maintained. The decorative ironstone area outside Church House (Barlow Robbins Solicitors) is not being maintained at all and is disappearing under grass and weeds giving the appearance of complete neglect<sup>101</sup>. The area forming the path within the perimeter of St Peter and St Paul also needs clearing of weeds. There are other similar poorly maintained areas on land not in private ownership but still visible to the public and visitors – one example being the lower Station Car park<sup>102</sup>.

**3.24** The town's environment in the form of its air quality is also a cause for serious concern. Slow moving traffic creates unacceptable levels of environmental pollution particularly Nitrogen Dioxide levels which have been recorded in Godalming on Flambard Way in excess of the annual mean permitted standards. Flambard Way is one of 3 air quality management areas in Waverley. However the Borough Council regards this as outside its control because transport issues are dealt with by Surrey County Council. Surrey County Council says it requires an urban

traffic control (UTC) to be carried out to establish the remedial action that can be taken. In a recent report to the Environment & Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee at Waverley Surrey County Council said, "We hope that the review of UTC for Godalming can be completed in the 2008/11 timescale but this cannot be guaranteed and it is most unlikely that any actual changes to the system could be introduced before 2011."<sup>103</sup>

**3.25** There are elements of the environment that are more satisfactory. For instance, since April 2007 Waverley Borough Council has been responsible for on-street parking enforcement in the town centre. Badly parked cars used to cause frequent and sometimes prolonged delays to buses using the High Street. There are now fewer badly and/or illegally parked cars on the High Street.



**3.26** The ambience of the High Street is improved for the public by a pedestrian priority scheme that operates on Saturdays.

**3.27** At night most routes in the town centre of Godalming for vehicles and pedestrians are well lit. In Church Street a new low-energy street lighting scheme has recently been introduced; however in the centre of Farncombe lighting is poor.



### Climate Change

**3.28** Godalming has no independent assessment of the impact of climate change on the town and carrying one out was well beyond the scope and resources of this Healthcheck. Assessments have been carried out at regional level. Climate South East (a partnership of organisations which is examining the anticipated impact of climate change in the South East) states:

*"In the South East of England we expect climate change to lead to hotter drier summers, warmer wetter winters, higher sea levels and an increase in extreme events such as heat-waves, droughts and flooding. For instance, the heat-wave of 2003 is predicted to become the norm by the summers of the 2050s and to be considered relatively cool by the 2080s"*

**3.29** The Climate Change Bill has completed its passage through Parliament and received Royal Assent on 1 December 2008. It places a statutory obligation on government to reduce the nation's carbon emissions by 80% by 2050.

**3.30** To date there have only been a handful of actions in the town to reduce carbon emissions e.g. the low energy lighting scheme for Church Street. However a group of residents has recently formed itself into "Transition Godalming" which it says "is a local response to the major threats of depleting oil reserves and climate change by acquiring information and sharing it within the Godalming community, and encouraging and seeing through the changes needed to lessen the impact of these threats"<sup>104</sup>.

### Biodiversity

**3.31** Threats to the biodiversity of the natural environment of Godalming are visible and were identified by this Healthcheck. These include certain invasive species, in particular some of those that are known threats to wetland areas such as foreign crayfish and mink as identified in the Wetland Habitat Action Plan for Surrey<sup>105</sup>. In addition Himalayan Balsam is establishing itself on the banks of the Wey and its tributaries and is posing a potentially serious threat to the areas of the Lammis Lands that are not grazed<sup>106</sup>.

**3.32** A new concern is the spread of leaf miner moth on horse-chestnut trees, which has become very apparent this year (2008). This has now spread through the horse chestnuts in the town and surrounding area and it leads to premature leaf fall. Although in the short term it is not expected to kill trees it will recur year after year and over time will lead to a serious weakening in this species of tree leaving them more susceptible to other problems<sup>107 108</sup>.

**3.33** The threat of the quarry at Eashing poses a potential threat to the biodiversity of the most important ecological site in the area – the nationally recognised Charterhouse to Eashing SSSI<sup>109</sup>.

## Summary

**3.34** We have referred above to proposed major residential schemes that are already known about. These developments, and others yet to be identified, have the potential, collectively, to put additional pressures on the local infrastructure, increase traffic congestion and alter the character of the town and surrounding area. It is right that the schemes should be subjected to rigorous examination and public scrutiny before approval. We look to the local authorities to ensure this happens.

**3.35** As we indicate above, the central issue we identified in relation to waste appears to be about the recycling of (a) cardboard; (b) plastic; (c) food; and (d) business wastes. Each of these requires specific, targeted actions that will lift the proportion of recycled waste so Surrey meets its 60% target. We believe that this can be achieved, under the active and committed leadership of Waverley, through a combination of local authority and voluntary initiatives.

## Action Points

### Waste Management

- EN.1. Increase the recycling of cardboard either by providing a door-to-door collection service or by increasing the number of bring points in the Town to include at least one in Farncombe/Binscombe and one on Ockford Ridge.
- EN.2. Provide additional support to the Plastic Bag Free Godalming campaign.
- EN.3. Install bins to enable shoppers to deposit of plastic packaging with the retailer.
- EN.4. Encourage businesses to prioritise the recycling of their waste.

### Town Scene

- EN.5. Tackle broken/worn street furniture and signage throughout the town.
- EN.6. Review the signage for visitors to the town.
- EN.7. Tackle litter and graffiti hot-spots.
- EN.8. Extend Pedestrian Priority scheme in Godalming High Street (see Transport Chapter T. 27. above).

### Biodiversity

- EN.9. Draw up a containment and management plan for the Himalayan Balsam on the Lammas Lands.

## 4 Economy

### Summary of our findings

- 4.1** Key to understanding Godalming's economy is the town's proximity to Guildford. Unlike many market towns Godalming is not surrounded by a rural hinterland that it serves. Instead Guildford, a much larger town abuts Godalming to the northeast. This brings both benefits and disadvantages.
- 4.2** Godalming residents benefit from the employment opportunities and wide range of services offered by Guildford. However, the presence of a major shopping centre just three miles away has an adverse effect on Godalming's retailers who perceive that Guildford draws in shoppers who might otherwise shop in Godalming.

### The Local Job Market

- 4.3** The proportion of Godalming's residents (of working age) in employment is higher than the national average for both genders and all age groups with, at the time of the Healthcheck, very low levels of unemployment<sup>110</sup>.
- 4.4** Evidence suggests that of those Godalming residents that are employed 22% work within the town while 61% work elsewhere<sup>111</sup>. In 2001 10% of the population travelled between 40 and 60km to work<sup>112</sup> which is consistent with anecdotal evidence that a significant number of residents travel to London for work. 29% travelled between 2 and 10km to work. It can be safely assumed that a large proportion of this number travelled to Guildford.
- 4.5** Small and medium-sized companies (SMEs), employing 11-199 staff - total around 11% of Waverley businesses and account for 50% of employees across the area. Large organisations (with 200+ staff) represent less than 1% of Waverley businesses, but in Godalming this category includes such major national and international names as Winzur Wurth and WWF (Worldwide Fund for Nature). Godalming is also home to the main offices of Waverley Borough Council, which is another major employer. 89% of businesses in the Waverley Borough employ less

than 10 people<sup>113</sup> this last figure being consistent with the finding that Godalming shops tend to employ five or fewer staff.

- 4.6** State and independent schools and colleges are also important local employers. The 2001 Census data showed that 10.6% of Godalming residents in employment were employed in Education compared with 7.7% of the working population nationally.
- 4.7** Median annual earnings in 2007 for residents of Waverley were £26,000 compared with a national median of £20,000. (There is no data for Godalming alone.) However, the mean annual earnings were significantly higher at £42,000 indicating that there are a lot of high earning individuals.<sup>114</sup> When the same national earnings data is analysed by place of work<sup>115</sup>, it can be shown that generally speaking those people who work locally are not earning above the national average. By implication the Godalming residents who are higher earners are working outside the town.

### Business Support

- 4.8** A range of support is available to local businesses including the Waverley Business Forum (WBF), the Godalming & District Chamber of Commerce and Business Link in the Southeast. Evidence suggests that these sources of support are not well used or well regarded by Godalming businesses<sup>116 117</sup>. Only the banks were seen as giving good support<sup>118</sup>.
- 4.9** Apart from the Godalming & District Chamber of Commerce, which has relatively low membership, there is currently no forum or any partnership organisation focused on the needs of the business economy in the town. Evidence from a survey of retail businesses indicates that these businesses look to the relevant local authorities, Waverley Borough Council and Godalming Town Council, to provide more support to businesses and felt that these authorities failed to do so<sup>119</sup>. Traders felt that business rates are too high, and still rising. They see little return.
- 4.10** To improve support for business 70% of



respondents to the survey of retail businesses supported the creation of the post of Town Centre Manager, and 75% were in favour of more events being held in Godalming town centre<sup>120</sup>. The retail businesses also wanted to see improved car parking facilities for shoppers, i.e. more and cheaper car parking.

- 4.11** The whole town has access to broadband services through a range of providers. In 2008, free wi-fi internet access was made available as a pilot scheme throughout Godalming town centre. The scheme does not include Farncombe. Godalming Library provides free public internet access and runs “MyGuide” classes to basic personal computing skills.

### Education, Training and Skills Development

- 4.12** There is a range of learning and training opportunities in the town. Godalming Sixth Form College was judged as outstanding at its last OFSTED inspection<sup>121</sup>. It provides vocational and adult learning as well as its primary role of providing an academic education for the 16+ age group. A limited range for adult learning classes are provided by Surrey County Council in the town, at a variety of locations. The County Council closed Godalming’s Adult Education Centre some years ago and it has been redeveloped as housing.

- 4.13** The town’s proximity to Guildford means that there is easy access to further learning and training opportunities there: Guildford College, the Adult Education centre, Surrey University and a range of private providers.

### Location and Availability of Business

### Premises

- 4.14** Businesses in Godalming are clustered in Farncombe and Godalming retail centres and on the business parks along Catteshall Lane<sup>122</sup>. There are some 200 business premises in Godalming town centre<sup>123</sup> with a further 50 or so in Farncombe village centre. Other significant business locations include Mill Lane, Godalming and Green Lane, Farncombe.

- 4.15** Godalming and Farncombe have a comprehensive range of shops, services and catering establishments, with independent retailers in the majority. This is because there is a predominance of small retail units in the town that are unattractive to “multiples”<sup>124</sup> and better suited to independent traders. Businesses report that rents are high and a number of retailers are known to have closed following upward rent reviews, notably the Surrey Bookshop which closed in 2007.

- 4.16** The town has two large supermarkets, Waitrose and Sainsbury’s both of which attract shoppers from outside the town, particularly from south Guildford. A range of smaller specialist stores bring people into the town, for example “Ballet Hoo” selling dancewear. Many retailers suggest that the town has a disproportionate number of charity shops<sup>125</sup> (8 in Godalming & Farncombe) and there is anecdotal evidence that by being able to pay higher rents, charity shops have displaced other retailers from Godalming town centre<sup>126</sup>.

- 4.17** A range of restaurants and public houses keeps the Godalming town centre active in the evening and attract non-residents into the town.

- 4.18** There is a general market held every Friday in

Godalming town centre on land to the rear of the High Street between Great George Street and Moss Lane. A regular Farmers’ market is held at Secretts in Milford on the third Sunday of each month. Occasional French and Italian markets are held in Godalming town centre and an assortment of traders open occasional stalls in the Undercroft of the Old Town Hall known as the Pepperpot.

- 4.19** At any one time there are a handful of vacant shops in Godalming town centre but these are normally re-let within the year with new businesses entering the town centre regularly. In the centre of Farncombe the re-let times are longer and there is a tendency for planning applications to be made requesting change of use A1 (retail) to other use<sup>127</sup> and from business use to residential housing.

- 4.20** Some retailers complained that the move (in the late 1990s) of Waitrose from its position in the centre of the High Street (in the building currently occupied by Fitness First, The Slug and Lettuce and The Jack Phillips) to its present home at the end of Bridge Street has had a detrimental effect on trading in the High Street<sup>128</sup>. Certainly the move has changed the dynamics of Godalming town centre, with Bridge Street becoming a more significant retail street. Businesses in Church Street report that their street has become quieter since the move and a number of premises in the upper High Street have changed from retail to catering.

- 4.21** Outside of the retail sector there have been changes in use, over time, from manufacturing and engineering premises in Godalming to light industrial, office and retail use (for example the RFD factory on Catteshall Lane, closed in 1987 when the firm relocated to Northern Ireland, and the Alan Paine knitting factory, relocated to Wales in 1990). The pressure to change employment land to residential use is ever present because of the high prices that housing land fetches. Recent examples include: The Ram Cider House at Catteshall, parts of Blackburn Mill on Catteshall Road and small business premises on the Godalming Key Site.

### Tourism and Visitor Services

- 4.22** There are significant levels of tourism in Godalming – but this is predominantly people visiting family and friends in the area and business people rather than holidaymakers. A range of agencies provide tourist information about the town and its surrounding area: Godalming Museum, Waverley Borough Council, Godalming Town Council and the Guildford Tourist Information Office.

- 4.23** There is no tourist information centre in the town. No one agency takes specific responsibility for providing tourist information for Godalming and information available to a visitor is inconsistent. When residents were asked whether Godalming needed a tourist information centre, 26% said “yes” and 46% said “no”<sup>129</sup>. Local retailers have shown more enthusiasm for a tourist information centre because more tourists would probably increase footfall in shopping streets.

- 4.24** Visitor accommodation in the town is limited, but has increased in recent years and is of good quality.

### Action Points

#### Retail Economy

- EC.1.** Improve footfall in retail shopping streets, particularly Godalming High Street through a range of initiatives including:
- Holding more craft and other markets at venues like Crown Court and the Pepperpot.
  - Improving tourist and visitor information (see also Social & Community Chapter SC.6. & SC. 7. above).
  - Creating a heritage trail around the town centre(s)
- EC.2.** Improve car parking for shoppers (see also Transport Chapter T.19. & T. 20. above).
- EC.3.** Employ a Town Centre Manager to manage town centre events and to liaise with retailers.

## 5 Youth

### Summary of our findings

- 5.1** The Key Findings were gathered from a questionnaire<sup>130</sup>, an audit of facilities for children and young people<sup>131</sup> and interviews with people who are locally involved in this field<sup>132</sup> and with the young people themselves<sup>133</sup>.
- 5.2** The Parents' Questionnaire was delivered into the homes of children and young people with the co-operation of the nurseries, primary and secondary schools in the area. Over 3,000 questionnaires were sent out and 172 were returned via the schools.
- 5.3** The Parents' Forum was held a few weeks after the questionnaire was sent out and attended by 18 people. There was a Power Point presentation of the results of the Parents' Questionnaire followed by a brainstorming session<sup>134</sup>. An invitation to the parents was included in the questionnaire and it was publicised locally with posters and flyers.
- 5.4** The Audit looked at what was available to toddlers, children and young people in the area; it did not include sports facilities or after school clubs.

### Facilities and events for Toddlers

- 5.5** Godalming and its surrounding area have much to offer families with young children. It is regarded as a strong family friendly community<sup>135</sup>.
- 5.6** There are many Toddler Groups, the majority associated with churches; there are two toy libraries<sup>136</sup> and many privately run classes<sup>137</sup>.
- 5.7** There is a strong NCT network offering pre natal classes, linking new parents together, organising sales and producing the booklet "Toddle to Godalming"<sup>138 139</sup>
- 5.8** Preschools and nursery schools are distributed throughout the Healthcheck area. There is a wide choice of these facilities and registered child minders<sup>140</sup>.

### Surrounding Countryside

- 5.9** For families the pleasant setting of Godalming is an asset with the ease of access to the countryside and the coast being thought important. Local National Trust sites play their part in this. Families can enjoy this environment whilst using the transport links to Guildford and London for work and pleasure<sup>141</sup>. Godalming is experienced as a quiet town<sup>142</sup>.

### Safety

- 5.10** Parents feel the town is a safe place in which to bring up their children<sup>143</sup>.

### Few Facilities for Young People Aged 10-16

- 5.11** The audit showed a limited choice of church run youth clubs and no 'open' secular youth clubs. The survey and the interviews showed a strong concern about this situation<sup>144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151</sup>.
- 5.12** Youth workers pointed out that as a commuter area there were many parents who would arrive home around 19.00 leaving a key period between 15.30 and 19.00 when young people might have no one to go home to<sup>152</sup>. This is the time of day when most teenage crime is committed<sup>153</sup>.

### Public Transport

- 5.13** Public transport was seen by parents and young people as expensive and inconveniently timetabled<sup>154</sup>. To site new youth projects locally, where they were most needed would prevent this difficulty<sup>155 156</sup> or a dedicated transport service home from youth venues such as that devised by Cranleigh Arts Centre<sup>157</sup> for its "FLY" events.[www.cranleighbartscentre.org.uk](http://www.cranleighbartscentre.org.uk)

### There is Nowhere for Young People to Meet Informally

- 5.14** Young people like to meet up with their friends after school but police move them on from the centre of Godalming when they gather in groups. Railway staff do the same to groups at Farncombe station<sup>158</sup>.

### Staffing Youth Venues

- 5.15** Concern was shown by the parents, the youth workers and the young people themselves over the pragmatic issue of staffing youth venues<sup>159 160 161</sup>. Some have been associated with other local youth clubs that have closed recently for this reason<sup>162</sup>.
- 5.16** There is a shortage of trained youth workers and volunteers who would be willing to undergo statutory checks and training. Young people and their families want a youth club that would be open at weekends and throughout the holidays<sup>163</sup>.

### Residents Resistance to Local Youth Projects

- 5.17** Young people and youth workers were aware of local youth projects, which have faced the hostility of local residents in the past and anticipate similar difficulties in the future<sup>164</sup>.

### More Visible Police Presence

- 5.18** Young people feel vulnerable when walking and when using public transport in the evening<sup>165</sup>. There was a strong desire for a more visible police presence as a solution to this and to curb the unacceptable behavior of the minority<sup>166</sup>.

### Youth Meeting Places (Informal)

- 5.19** Young people talk of very simple requirements, somewhere to meet in groups in the evening to talk<sup>167 168</sup>. In the Parents' Questionnaire the idea was described as a 'Sheltered Meeting Place'; the term is actually 'Teen Shelter'<sup>169</sup>.

### Youth Meeting Places (Formal)

- 5.20** With 'blue sky' thinking the young people described many ideas for a formal meeting place, much of it based on informality<sup>170</sup>. The old notion of giving young people plenty of space and plenty to do is out of date. They want to 'be' to 'chill', to chat peer to peer and, occasionally, youth to adult<sup>171 172</sup>. Such a place might include Internet access, a café, and simple provision for performing and recording their live music<sup>173 174 175 176 177 178</sup>.
- 5.21** On a larger scale such a venue might host gigs, live music, disco and art and drama events, something that both young people and parents express a desire for<sup>179 180 181 182 183 184 185</sup>.

- 5.22** It was the young people who initiated the ideas, which were amplified in the later stages by professionals, so it is essential that the work of implementing the vision of the Healthcheck has young people at its centre. Consultations revealed a reservoir of concern and enthusiasm in the community about facilities for young people, something which has given the vision for the future depth and energy. We suggest channelling that energy in the following three ways: