

Comments received from the Neighbourhood Plan Consultation (Community and Infrastructure Group) (63) Godalming Food Festival July 5th 2014

- More affordable housing for local young families rather than have to pay very high renting costs
- Lovely town
- picturesque
- I like the community - knowing lots of people
- I would like to see more/some playing areas in the Charterhouse area
- I feel we are in need of more junior schools in the area
- Please fix Wiggin's Yard cobbles - it is impossible to run a wheel chair over existing cobbles and the foot path from Bridge St to Bury Fields
- Please, please, please sort traffic problems out in Busbridge - too much speeding traffic, especially on Quatermile Road.
- With new planning approvals how can the area best be protected?
- Don't build on the green belt - plenty of brownfield sites around to build first
- Plenty of places for cheap housing on green belt - just get on with it
- More things for younger people
- Thing I value about Godalming - easy access to relatively uncrowded green spaces of a good (large) size
- Community spirit - nice that people really engage with each other
- Easy access to playgroups and schools
- Am able to get sear on train to London in the morning
- Refrain from building over allotments in Godalming an Farncombe
- Re-vamp the street in Farncombe with more cares and independent shops to promote the area and getting a chance for people to meet
- Cycle lanes for people that don't drive
- Park and Ride for easy commute
- Cultural events (art, dance, music festivals)
- Main problem is housing or lack of it, but danger of being joined up with Guildford one way and Milford the other
- Farncombe could do with a coffee shop!
- It is a good town to live in
- Aren't the schools and doctors full already?
- Lack of cycle friendly roads - more needs to be done
- Zero tolerance on speeding drivers
- Love the green space
- Like - Pepperpot
- Like - the park
- Like - monument to Titanic worker
- Need - more bus services
- Need more facilities for the disabled
- Need art
- Don't like expensive rents
- I love living here!
- No permits for parking
- No tall buildings, please
- No more through-traffic

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- The option for play-based non-formal early years education up to age 6 Montessori style for all parents but mostly for children from disadvantaged backgrounds
- No building on flood plains
- More school places
- Larger GP surgery for Farncombe/Binscombe
- Support for local shops in Farncombe
- Protect Broadwater Park
- We love living here - keep it beautiful, please
- Concerns for Godalming - we need further infrastructure for all the additional housing
- Concerns - school places
- Concerns - employment
- Concerns - Doctors
- Concerns - traffic
- More sports facilities - shame that I have lived in the area for 20 years and now have to travel out of the parish to play squash
- Future housing developments to include either social housing or some kind of affordable housing so 'buy to let' landlords are discouraged from purchasing them
- Parking
- Rubbish
- Not one massive housing estate
- I have loved living in Godalming for the last 12 years. there is a real community feel to the town and the wonderful people, countryside and the spirit all contribute to this
- I like that there is a real mix of people; young and old, all cultures and creeds are welcome and families and individuals all feel part of the community
- I would like to see more public transport (buses) and cycle ways to be developed in the future. This is a real short-coming of the town and means that there is over-reliance on the car.
- More pavements and safe crossings will also help
- No housing development in town centre (no space!)
- Best thing is the river and its activities
- Lack of local schools which can only get worse with the new estates being built
- Limited parking for people working so they park on the roads
- The guttering on the Bandstand is worse than a garden shed
- Park - outside exercise stations for older people, over 10 years old
- More OAP groups in the park - they have them in Poole Park, Dorset.
- Keep all ages fit and healthy free!! In fresh air.
- With all the new development, what provision is being made for schools (infants to 6th form)
- What impacts/considerations are being taken into account for the natural soak-away and drainage systems?
- The ambience is delightful, the village vibe alive, peaceful and calming - even when you drive!
- Car parking is sufficient (most days) for volumes of traffic

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- Love music in the park
- My 13 year old son would dearly love you to build a skate park/BMX scooter venue between Milford - Witley
- There is definitely a gap for young 'well-behaved' teenage children- please consider, thank you
- I live in Knoll Quarry and for months now I have been unable to come up Frith Hill to get to my house. There has been a landslip and the road has been closed off. I now have to come up Charterhouse Road, along Twycross Road and down Frith Hill Road. An additional 2 miles!
- More affordable housing
- New houses - no infrastructure (Milford Hospital, Catteshall Lane, Police station)
- Infrastructure for all housing being built - need more schools, doctors
- Regarding the street lights on the roads leading to Aaron's Hill (GU7 2LJ)
- Please increase the number of street lights
- Also please come and cut some overgrown bushes and trees, so that the roads will get more light
- My concerns with the new Local Plan are with the volume of traffic that will be generated and the ability of our road system to cope. The emphasis from 'above' seems far too heavily biased to provide new housing
- We desperately need affordable and social housing in Godalming
- Rents above £1.500 per month for 3/4 bed houses is impossible for many local young people
- 2 bed houses for sale in Croft Road at £550,000 is madness
- We need to have Council housing, Housing Association housing at reasonable rents
- May need to build on green belt if necessary (for council/housing association housing)
- No more housing - especially in green field sites
- If more housing, then we need more doctors and schools etc
- Interestingly, despite loving Busbridge, there is no local shop or pub!
- Green space etc is great
- Secondary school could be a concern because if the increase in housing continues
- Please do not knock down the Old Fire Station - rumour it is to be demolished and replaced with flats
- Old Fire station should be kept to preserve the special character of the street and this would be an opportunity to use it as an arts space or return it to its original purpose as a 'start up' space for young business ...not flog it off and cash in
- Traffic - Milford Hospital to Tuesley Lane - one way
- Traffic - Catteshall Lane, Police station - widen road
- New building - infrastructure- school/doctors
- Could encourage more art-related venues/events
- Disappointing lack of Council support for Rotunda Theatre
- Lack of vision in planning for community based facilities, seem to be driven by big business, not community (Sainsbury's!!)
- The best thing about Godalming is the countryside

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- Traffic - Catteshall Lane with increased traffic Sainsbury's extension, 5pm out of here is impossible, so make a one way road?
- Make Holloway Hill one way
- T junction - traffic lights at Catteshall/Meadrow
- The best thing about living here is the local community - free events, friendly people, local businesses, genuine support for local projects
- No new schools, doctor's surgeries, hospitals etc., just more houses
- No investment or modernisation of the road network or infrastructure - just more houses!
- We are an island nation, the time has come to do what is necessary to reduce or slow our population growth
- Value the community spirit is spectacular and is felt by anyone I speak with about it
- Friendly, happy spirit of the community; residents and businesses
- Lived in UK for 21 years and in Godalming for 2 years and I felt more at home and a part of the community here than anywhere else. I truly love Godalming
- Best thing - warmth, sense of community, space
- More arts and culture events, more integration from wider spectrum of the community
- All teaching staff of early years up to age 6 trained in play therapy/empathy/therapeutic chat/ neuroscience and paid a lot more
- No more houses built where existing housing estates etc. are; it would increase overcrowding and pressure on existing amenities - doctors, schools, dentists, traffic
- My greatest concern is that any development will impact on our countryside
- Once built on, that green land is gone for ever
- Draconian to insist every area has to offer somewhere to build on. Not all towns have the resources to cover development
- If you carry out the proposed building, you will ruin Godalming

- Feel grateful to be part of this beautiful village/town
- I miss the peaceful nature of the Catteshall Lane area pre-construction of We really value the green space, particularly the park
- Linden Homes. They have (or that development) has had a very negative impact on the immediate area. Very sad for the disrupted eco-system on the river
- Traffic into Waitrose on the weekend needs to be controlled
- Station parking charges - awful during the week
- Old buildings - the 'Bridge House' opposite Waitrose needs pulling down, it is ugly and the space could be better used
- Parking - Farncombe - effect of station/commuters parking in resident's roads
- We love leaving the city behind and returning to our home in Godalming. A small part of England under threat of becoming another victim to the Government's plan to keep building more new homes

Comments around the town centre (commerce, parking)

- Worst - car park charges
- Pay on exit at car parks
- Parking charges locally - only take change which we frequently do not have

- Please keep the High St pedestrianised all the time - this would encourage pavement cafes and restaurants in summer; much more social
- Parking should be either free or discounted on a weekend to promote more people coming to the town and help keep Godalming town/shops in business
- Should have first two hours free parking like Midhurst - it will encourage shoppers to shop for longer
- More non-chain coffee shops/bars
- I love the art galleries in Godalming and variety of shops
- Too many charity shops paying lower rates and selling new goods
- Love Godalming, but...town is dying due to high business rates, killing independent businesses (I am a retailer gone out of business!!)
- Save the High St, encourage independent retail
- Friendly shops
- We **don't** like betting shops
- Keep Godalming local!! We love the independent and local businesses on the High St
- Lower rent for the shops on the High St to promote and value the area
- Suggestion for Food Festival - more tables/chairs spread along the High St
- Need individual shops
- Don't like chains of shops
- No more conversion of pubs/buildings into supermarkets
- (e.g. Tesco/Sainsbury's)
- Employment land - nothing here
- I love Godalming because friendly people frequent the streets often giving out tasty treats
- Better parking for people working in Godalming
- Too many empty shops
- Need more independent shops
- Nice cafe in the High St
- No more bars in Godalming High St
- Keep the wonderful community feel through all the activities and events
- Can the High St be pedestrianised all the time?
- I miss some of the smaller shops which have been forced out by chains
- I really miss our Post Office (the proper one by the Red Lion)
- More street markets are always welcome
- We really value the events
- Business rates too high - empty shops
- Not enough incentives for small businesses
- Re-assess business rates - far, far too high!
- More social media by Godalming Chamber to raise awareness
- Lowering the business rates which I understand were last assessed at the

height of the boom and start of 'the bust'

- Range of local shops - don't have to go into Guildford and try to park there to get everything
- More incentive to help local businesses and reduce empty shop front problem
- It would be great if small businesses could afford to survive business rates and rent costs, somehow. It seems they rarely last more than a year before folding and we end up with just lots of charity shops instead.
 - More encouragement of business collaboration - I would like to see a greater and more expanded role of the Chamber with residents
- To keep the town thriving, what about working with business premises landlords to drop rents in order for 'pop up' shops and cafes to open, e.g. during the summer and in the run-up to Christmas? If successful they may stay and thereby help to promote Godalming as a mecca for independent shops

- **About this information:**

Where has it come from?

Members of the public in Godalming during the Food Festival on Saturday, 5th July 2014.

How was it gathered?

The Neighbourhood Plan team manned an information stand in Crown Court. People were invited to first locate and mark where they live and place a sticker on the town map. They were then invited to write what they felt about living in Godalming and Farncombe, with particular reference to it's community and infrastructure. NP volunteers explained the reason for the Neighbourhood Plan and the need to plan for future housing development. People were asked if they had already participated in the Town Day consultation, to avoid duplication.

Did people understand what is meant by 'community and infrastructure'?

The stand had a display to illustrate the various facets (education, health, sports, green spaces, arts and culture, venues, community groups etc) and a 'Please tell us what you think' list of prompts to get people thinking, for example:

What is the best thing about living here?

What do you really value?

What do you miss?

What is frustrating?

What would you like to see more of?

How many responses were gathered and where are they?

63 people posted their comments in the sealed box. There was no printed form of questions at all - people were free to write what they wished to say on a blank sheet.

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In all, 169 separate comments were made and they are typed out as written, above. All hand written slips submitted are on file for the group to check and refer back to as necessary.

How will this information be used?

The information is a 'snapshot' and gathered as part of a public awareness exercise. The sample is a random one of residents at that day's event. This information is therefore of use to the group(s) in 'giving a steer' towards areas worthy of further investigation.

Was it a representative cross-section of the community?

The food festival is an established town event and was very well attended by what appeared to be a fairly typical Saturday shopping crowd. NP volunteers asked people if they lived in the GU7 area and it was noticeable that many people from the surrounding villages and the Guildford area were visiting for the event.

Are there any significant areas that were not commented upon?

Although not appearing in the written responses, several conversations took place around the look of the built environment e.g. the need to design houses which are big enough for family life, not built in soul-less estates, not letting developers push for 3 storey buildings which are taller than the surrounding housing.

Are there particular concerns that emerged?

The town was very busy despite the weather and Wimbledon. It would be reasonable to say that town centre shopping issues came easily to mind due to the nature of the event. The comments gathered would suggest that many residents see the vibrancy of the centre of town as an important part of Godalming's attractiveness as a place to live. More than the town day event, people on this occasion took the opportunity to say why they like Godalming and like living in Godalming - volunteers were involved in many long discussions about the town and the general feeling among the NP team was that it had been a positive and useful exercise.

Next Steps:

This information will be made available to all working groups to study.

Jane Thomson 06.07.2014