

Comments received from the Neighbourhood Plan Consultation (Community and Infrastructure Group) Stand, Town Day, 7th June 2014

We like - best things about Godalming and Farncombe

- Feels like a town with a countryside location
- Staycation
- Community
- Rugby club
- Rugby club
- Busbridge parking since the college started Saturday parking
- Sports facilities are excellent
- Borough Hall
- Easy parking
- Good smaller independent shops
- Sunday bandstand is great
- Community feel
- Value the open space and environment
- I love Godalming
- We love Farncombe - a great village community

Comments on areas for improvement and suggestions to make things better:

Ideas

- Cable car from Frith Hill into town
- 20mph in all residential roads
- Parking permits for South Hill
- Reduce rates for new businesses for the first 24-36months
- Need to think big and develop Dunsfold
- Encourage people to come into the High St eg. free car parking for the first half an hour
- Look at Wandsworth Common for children's play area ideas
- Start community/social enterprises (see also community engagement comments below)

Community Engagement

- Help Ockford Ridge area to be more integrated/less isolated from Godalming
- Volunteering - how to let volunteers know where they can contribute and find out why they don't
- Involve local people in volunteering - grow next generation of volunteers
- Community enterprise; community orchard, composting, manufacturing/micro businesses
- Above linked to Skillway perhaps

Comments received from the Neighbourhood Plan Consultation (Community and Infrastructure Group) Stand, Town Day, 7th June 2014

Farncombe

- Not used to its full potential for local events
- Farncombe Spring Fair is held in Godalming not Farncombe
- Investment needed in the village centre
- More cultural events
- Farncombe needs a cafe for people to get to know each other

Godalming shops and commerce (including High Street specific comments)

- Need a shop that sells Slush Puppies
- We'd like an ice cream parlour open in the evening
- No cars in the High St
- Parking restrictions in the High St are not enforced
- Pedestrianise the High St
- More 'cafe culture'
- More local businesses
- Fewer charity shops
- More choice of independent restaurants
- Attitude of drivers in the High St
- Too many cars
- Keep shops in the High St with reasonable rents and rates
- More shops
- Cheaper car parking
- An Aldi or Lidl
- Too many charity shops
- High St that thrives with local stores
- Less dominance for Sainsbury's
- Cost of shop rents may be putting off potential new businesses
- Charity shops depress interest in commercial shops -devalue area
- Business community with local jobs for local people

Culture/Venues and places to go (including places of worship)

- More for teenagers
- Utilise the Borough Hall to its full potential
- Teenagers - what is there for them to do?
- 14-17 yr olds need more
- Lack of things to do for 12-18 yr olds
- Make Godalming 6th form College facilities available for wider community
- Community theatre/cinema
- Young people 12-18 yrs olds - what is it they want?
- Youth activities needed, feel comfortable

Comments received from the Neighbourhood Plan Consultation (Community and Infrastructure Group) Stand, Town Day, 7th June 2014

- More leisure activities for kids
- Not enough films on at the town's cinema
- Busbridge church - overspill of congregation means it needs premises able to take whole congregation

Community - non tangible

- It is becoming too middle class
- I miss a community where people readily engage with each other

Parks (and green spaces)

- More parks
- Bigger play area for the Phillips Memorial Park
- No decent play parks for over 5yr olds - need climbing walls on a bigger scale
- More parks and spaces to go
- Broadwater park - why neglected- lake is overgrown
- Rat infestation (Broadwater park) there is a danger to young children - not being dealt with
- Broadwater lake - saw 11 rats on one walk
- Run down play park (Broadwater park) with broken equipment - what happened to Jethro's fund?
- Quality of children's play areas is very poor
- Protect green spaces
- Green spaces very important e.g. Canon Bowring recreation ground and allotments

Other environment comments

- 'Twinned with' sign in Charterhouse looks faded and needs renewing
- Farncombe has no signs to say it is in the Surrey Hills too
- Need new white railings above the parade of shops on Farncombe Street - they are an eyesore
- Hedges not maintained, especially in social housing areas

Schools and Education

- Lack of primary school places near to children's homes - Farncombe to Eashing lane, so
- Cannot walk children to school
- Low quality junior schools - only one above satisfactory
- are there enough?
- Good nurseries - if you can afford to pay
- Important that children can walk, cycle, scoot safely to school

Comments received from the Neighbourhood Plan Consultation (Community and Infrastructure Group) Stand, Town Day, 7th June 2014

- Nursery and primary school in Catteshall area - need
- School capacity - religious schools
- Need new schools for new housing
- Adult Ed. in Godalming instead of Guildford

Health and Wellbeing

- Doctors already really busy
- Doctors in the town cost too much to get to (bus) and too far to walk

Development and housing

- Please don't build on Binscombe Fields
- Don't build on Godalming College playing fields as there are already enough people up there and don't agree with using greenbelt land
- Don't build on the college or convent
- House prices are far too high
- Need for affordable housing
- Very hard to find a bungalow for a family, 3 bed plus, as disabled parent
- House prices are far too high

Utilities

- Power supply in Bargate - constant power cuts all year round (not just winter storms)
- Need an 'holistic' water management plan for flood risk as well as extreme rainfall and periods of drought
- An energy management plan, moving away from NIMBY nay-sayers

Sport and Leisure

- Need more facilities for children to play sport
- Evening swimming for the public at Godalming Leisure Centre (every day for at least 1 hour, post 7pm)
- Don't lose sports facilities at Godalming 6th form college
- Farncombe Leisure Centre is very good - a great development
- Indoor sports hall for skating/roller hockey
- Need community sports centre that is within walking distance from central Godalming

Transport issues - for drivers, cyclists, pedestrians and vehicle parking

- Catteshall Lane - needs repair to surface and traffic management (no one seems interested - just pack in housing)
- Cycle path Farncombe to Godalming
- Roads are already busy - consider congestion
- Buses getting down Shackstead Lane
- Amount of traffic on Holloway Hill
- On-street parking makes driving difficult - too many cars per house
- Need better parking enforcement on the High St
- Traffic to key site and key site parking
- Traffic not being allowed out onto Woolsack Way
- Low bridge at Charterhouse - damaged - is the warning for high vehicles good enough?
- Control parking opposite the back of Sainsbury's and opposite 'new build' - all houses on that stretch have drives not used
- Godalming station taxi rank - when full other cars cannot pass on stretch toward the Mill.
- A lot of busy roads to cross for children walking to school - don't want it to get worse
- Road and parking infrastructure - not coping at busy periods
- Shackstead Lane and Holloway Hill traffic jams - very poor road conditions
- Cooper's Rise - lack of parking as modern cars are too big for the drives - dangerous
- Bigger parking spaces in Crown Court
- More disabled access transport
- Concerned about SCC plans for buses over next year
- Much more accessible transport for the disabled
- Summers road needs resurfacing and as a main road to Godalming Leisure Centre and school - appalling + traffic problems
- Transport for kids
- Better evening bus service
- Want more cycle paths/routes
- 20 mph and prioritised passing on Nightingale Road as it is an HGV shortcut
- Nightingale road camber (on railway side) undermined by heavy HGV's
- Speed bumps for King's Road
- 20 mph on King's road - now v dangerous situation, single traffic only
- A3 blocked by weight of traffic
- The amount of traffic and people parking wherever they like
- Roads and paths not maintained Not enough cycle paths and routes
- High levels of traffic
- SW trains
- Trying to get out of Catteshall Lane onto Meadrow
- State of the roads

Comments received from the Neighbourhood Plan Consultation (Community and Infrastructure Group) Stand, Town Day, 7th June 2014

About this information:

Where has it come from?

Members of the public who attended Town Day on 7th June 2014

How was it gathered?

The Neighbourhood Plan team manned an information stand and 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.

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

The stand had a display to illustrate the various facets and a 'Please tell us what you think' list of prompts to get people thinking, as follows:

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?

58 People posted their comments into 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. In all, 146 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. JT will bring to the next meeting.

What is the significance of the category headings?

-There is no particular significance as such. The responses were wide-ranging and diverse. The categories are a first attempt to capture comments under roughly similar subject headings. It would be reasonable to further categorise comments for specific areas e.g topics relating to young people. Comments on provision for children and young people crop up under parks as well as community facilities, education and sport, to give just one example. Transport issues also crop up in comments on health, education etc.

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 in 'giving a steer' towards areas worthy of further investigation.

Was it a representative cross-section of the community?

Hard to say - on the one hand, Godalming stalwarts who attend and help to man these events tend to be over 45. On the other hand, there were children's activities at the NP stand to attract parents and young people. The event was very well attended by families with young children and the NP stand was successful in engaging with them. We did not have a form asking name, age, address etc as we were there to raise awareness and capture information in an informal way.

Are there any significant areas that were not commented upon?

Looking at the responses, there are no comments relating specifically to facilities for the elderly and very few related to health care services. This could be because respondents were predominantly younger /pre-retirement age and relatively fit, but it

Comments received from the Neighbourhood Plan Consultation (Community and Infrastructure Group) Stand, Town Day, 7th June 2014

is still interesting to note that services for the elderly were not considered as distinct from community and infrastructure needs generally.

Next Steps:

On Saturday 4th July, there will be an NP stand in Crown Court, as part of the Godalming Food Festival event. The same format will be followed and we will identify people who contributed last time and steer them towards another NP group's survey in order to avoid duplication.

Jane Thomson 02.07.2014