

East Grinstead Carers Group

25th February 2003 : Discussion with Teresa Gittins

What are the key issues for carers within the East Grinstead area?

- Transport is the key issue in involving those living in the villages. This is difficult to provide presently
- There is an urgent need for respite home / nursing home that carers can rely on. There is nothing available locally. Homes have shut over the last two years so that those remaining can't now promise a bed and some no longer take people for short-term respite care. Need for 20 bed home? Should perhaps look at the convent as this would not need much work on it to provide carers services.
- Need to combine respite care with day care provision

Comments on existing facilities / services in the town

- The town is already failing in providing facilities for its existing population so how can it cope with additional 2,000 homes. Traffic is going to be a major problem.
- Need to focus on services for the existing population before we start building more homes
- Infrastructure needs to be planned in
- The number of flats for the elderly is increasing but we are not thinking ahead. More day care, respite care will be needed and must be planned for.
- Affordable houses are needed, we don't want our young people to continue to leave the town.
- What we have got isn't used enough – offices in Cantaloupe Road, car park at Sussex House. Empty offices should be used.
- Charwoods Road Industrial Estate is in the middle of a residential area. It brings heavy traffic through the town. Why can't it be redeveloped and the industry moved?
- Support for improving the north part of the town centre – need to improve the shops there before any further development is allowed. Railway Approach should be a priority.
- Need to improve the approach into the town centre. The multi storey car park in the offices should be used, and then this would improve footfall into the town centre.
- Rubbish is a real problem particularly in some areas. – wood in Richmond Way. Beeching Way, approaches to the King Centre, Hurst Farm Pond. Need to bring back the road sweeper.
- Children cycling on the pavement
- Cheaper fares for public transport

What is your vision for the town

- Pedestrianised town centre
- Take traffic away from the town centre
- Traffic from Crawley is terrible, approaches to East Grinstead get congested so that internal movement within the town becomes very difficult
- Need a greater variety of shops – too many charity shops, more variety
- Want East Grinstead to be family centres, not industry based. People have come here from South London and it is chosen because it is a nice family town
- Needs to keep its market town feel and character
- by-pass won't solve the traffic problems
- Traffic is the biggest issue

Vision words

Clean
No air pollution
Reduction in drink-related problems in the town

Carer – specific

Adequate services for the whole community
Improved day-care
Residential respite care