

East Grinstead and District Access Group

Reg. Charity No. 107 9603

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Please note our new E-mail Address:

15th November 2011

Ms J Holden
Town Clerk
East Grinstead Town council
Council Offices
East Court
College Lane
East Grinstead
West Sussex
RH19 3LT

Dear Julie,

RE: NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2011

Please find returned herewith the response to the somewhat ambiguous questionnaire in respect of the future development of East Grinstead Town and surrounding area. It is felt by the Access Group that the questions posed were far too elicit of the obvious answers and did not allow for any opinion other than the obvious.

Of the particular points that the Access Group would like to draw to the consideration of the Consultation Committee are the following:

- The Consultation with regard to the re-design and configuration of the Highways system must take into account the needs of all persons with any form of disability or mobility problems in respect of ramped access to all goods, services and facilities, installation of dropped kerbs and safe crossing areas with pedestrian controlled traffic signals. It should also insist that public footpaths are totally unhindered by A boards or similar promotional hazards for the visually impaired and wheelchair users.
- When consideration is being given to the provision of sporting and leisure facilities the need for all inclusive designs is important. It should be noted that particularly following the aftermath of the euphoria of the Olympic Games there will be an increased interest in Sport and Leisure facilities by people with mobility problems and disabilities and their specific needs must be given full consideration to ensure a fully inclusive community.

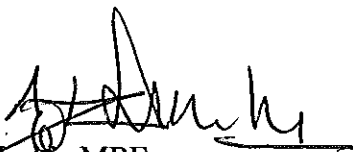


For *all* people with disabilities or mobility problems

- The most important aspect of any re-generation is in the opinion of the Access Group the easy ability, either by Public Transport i.e.: Buses and Trains or by Public Highway, to access all goods, services and facilities including sports and leisure. In the case of developing Business and shopping foot falls into East Grinstead it must be invitingly easy for people outside the area to travel in comfort and speedily into East Grinstead and also have adequate and inexpensive parking facilities available.
- It should also be noted that the present demise of our Community Bus facility, particularly as far as people with disabilities is concerned, is proving extremely detrimental to the promotion of extra business in our area, except it would seem, for the rise of the number of Coffee Outlets making East Grinstead the caffeine capital of West Sussex. We trust that these comments will be of use when the Council consider this highly important matter and if we can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact us.

One most important matter which did not appear on the original questionnaire is the supply of decent public toilet facilities including those suitable for people with disabilities. It is an established fact that the current unhygienic temporary arrangements in the King Street Car Park are a total deterrent to people visiting and spending money in East Grinstead and the lack of any decent public facility in the High Street area deters visitors who come to view and visit our ancient part of town and may therefore be persuaded to spend money in the local shops and the struggling farmers market.

Yours sincerely



Eric J W Mackie MBE
BSc FICM MISM MBIM
President