

Forest Row Parish Council

Clerk:
Email:

Mrs Rodabe Rudin
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(Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm)



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Date: 29 November, 2011

Dear Julie

EAST GRINSTEAD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Thank you for the invitation to input into your Neighbourhood Plan preparation process.

I am not sure whether we are in time to respond to your survey as your website states 31st October. We did not receive your letter until the week commencing 7th November and the meeting that considered this was held on 16th November. However, in the hope that neighbouring communities' views are still being considered, I list below a slightly more detailed response to the questions asked in the survey:

Housing:

Recognizing the constraints of building in Forest Row, a suitable mix of affordable housing in East Grinstead would help our community.

Traffic Flow:

East Grinstead has historically had traffic problems. We would like to see an improved cycle connection into East Grinstead (linking with the Worth Way) and enhanced pedestrian access. We believe that widening the bridge at the London Road/Lingfield Road junction would go a long way towards mitigating the impact of slow moving traffic.

Business Development:

Any support and encouragement that the Town Council can give to businesses both commercial and retail, would benefit other local communities in terms of adding to employment and shopping opportunities that can only be mutually beneficial.

Leisure & Health:

East Grinstead provides a good level of leisure facilities to surrounding areas particularly the swimming pool. This is a level of service that smaller communities cannot justify. Ideally we would like to see improvement in this facility to bring it to a par with facilities like the Triangle at Burgess Hill.

Safeguard Environment:

The development gap between Forest Row and East Grinstead must be maintained. Urban sprawl must be avoided.

Town Centre Regeneration:

This should go ahead as a matter of urgency to encourage more employers, both retail and commercial, to set up business in the town.

Jobs and Tourism:

East Grinstead provides jobs for some local residents but it is recognized that many travel to other towns such as Crawley and Tunbridge Wells, with a good number commuting to London. The Bluebell Railway link will add value to tourism opportunities and this needs to be capitalized on.


Sustainability:

The cycle network and linkage to Forest Row could be improved and from the Forest Way to the Worth Way in East Grinstead. The signage and connectivity also need improving.

It was agreed that the Town Centre Regeneration was the most important aspect of the East Grinstead Neighbourhood Plan and that the rest of the issues were to a large extent dependent on a vibrant and busy town centre.

I hope the above is of some use and if there is anything else we can help with, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Rudin', followed by a small horizontal line.

Rodabe Rudin
Clerk to Forest Row Parish Council