

# *Lingfield Parish Council*

**Response to East Grinstead Town Council's consultation 'Your Town – Your Voice – Your Future' prepared by Cllr Mary Edwards on behalf of Lingfield Parish Council – November 2011**

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## **Housing**

It is very important that any new building is accompanied by awareness that more infrastructure may be needed to sustain the increase in new residents' requirements, such as school places, parking facilities, doctors' lists etc.

It is also most important to retain the character of the town in all planning design and to avoid over development but keeping in mind the need for new housing.

## **Highways**

HGVs, other than those with business in or delivering to addresses in the town, should not be allowed into the town centre but directed, with good signage, to by pass the town.

The existing car parks behind the shops need to be enlarged to encourage people to shop in East Grinstead. What about multi-storey car parks and a shopping mall?

With new housing developments being inevitable around the town, a 'park and ride' arrangement would be a sensible addition to the town and would free up some of the car parks. Or, shuttle buses to and from the outlying estates.

## **Business Development**

Marks & Spencer would be a most welcome addition to the town, with more well known small chain stores with more of an 'up market' image than those there at the moment. Many of the present shops are decidedly 'down market'. This would encourage people to visit East Grinstead from areas around and not have to travel to Tunbridge Wells or Crawley.

## **Leisure and Health**

It would be advantageous to have better sport and leisure facilities, although these are fairly well catered for but more grounds for team games are probably needed.

## **Environment**

The town is situated close to some beautiful countryside, which should be protected and is within easy reach. The Green Belt is to be defended and the sprawl of urbanisation should not be encouraged beyond the town's boundaries.

## **Town Centre Regeneration**

It is important to retain the unique character of East Grinstead but it needs a big 'shot in the arm' to update its 'tired' image. A new shopping mall with multi-storey parking - discreetly behind the High Street facade - would improve the appeal for shoppers and encourage new retail outlets to come to East Grinstead. This would also attract new cafes etc. thereby enticing visitors.

## **Sustainability**

This is an important matter to be taken into account when any new building/plans are implemented, with the best use of materials and attention to climate change and the environment.

## **The Most Important of the above points.**

The re-invigoration of the town centre is the most urgent matter needing to be addressed, as East Grinstead is fast becoming an uninteresting town, which does not attract visitors, shoppers or retailers.

There are quite a few outlying villages nearby and these residents would welcome a vibrant town in which to shop. They already use Waitrose (and thank goodness for this shop) and Sainsburys. The hospital and churches also bring people into the town.