

# **East Grinstead Action Plan**

## **Supplementary Report**

### **Contents**

- 1. East Grinstead 'Snapshot'**
- 2. The Environment Worksheets**
- 3. The Economy Worksheets**
- 4. The Social and Community Worksheets**
- 5. Transport and Accessibility Worksheets**
- 6. East Grinstead Action Plan Survey Results**
- 7. Age Concern Consultation**
- 8. East Grinstead Carers Consultation**

## East Grinstead Snapshot

### Environment

Snapshot	Issues raised at Steering Group 19 Nov	Issues raised at Community forum
<p>The town of East Grinstead is located in the very North East of West Sussex, where its parish shares borders with the counties of East Sussex and Surrey. To the South of the town and to the South and West is the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).</p>	<p><i>The location of the town at the furthest extremity of the County, and on the borders of Surrey, East Sussex and Kent is itself an issue, impinging on the different support for discretionary services, such as support for voluntary organisations. There are also perceptions of distance from decision-makers in District and County Councils, which are particularly significant in terms of regional growth, and the concern to maintain the distinctive character and environment of the town.</i></p>	<p><b>What do you value most about your area?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historic town area</li> <li>• AONB</li> <li>• Each community has its own identity</li> <li>• Cleanliness</li> <li>• Good recycling services</li> </ul> <p><b>What doesn't work so well?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rubbish in the streets</li> <li>• Amenity tip not user friendly</li> <li>• Fly-posting</li> <li>• Gatwick – noise pollution</li> </ul>
<p>Within East Grinstead parish there are two Conservation Areas, these being the Weir Wood reservoir just south of the town, and the 14<sup>th</sup> Century buildings on the high street. Weir Wood also has the recognised status of a Special Protection Area, a Local Nature Reserve, and a site of importance for nature conservation.</p>	<p><i>The High Street area is seen as one of the "jewels in the crown" of East Grinstead, helping to define its essential character.</i></p> <p><i>There are also some areas of lower environmental quality, such as the Railway Approach and station areas generally.</i></p> <p><i>Other parts of the town also have their own distinct identities e.g. Herontye, Stone Quarry and Sunnyside.</i></p>	<p><b>Concerns for the Future:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over-development</li> <li>• Concern will get housing without effective bypass</li> <li>• Crawley city</li> <li>• Another runway at Gatwick</li> <li>• Effect of the bypass on rural areas</li> <li>• Landfill</li> <li>• Environment</li> <li>• Inadequate recycling</li> </ul>
<p>The town is surrounded by attractive countryside, and access out to it is good. There are ten bridleways and seven byways open to all traffic (BOATs), as well as numerous footpaths, so access is not always restricted to walkers only.</p> <p>Footpaths lead outwards from the town in Northerly, Southerly and Easterly directions, and a bridleway leads out to the West. There are also paths which link from and to rural areas outside the town.</p> <p>The national trails of the North and South Downs Ways are located to the North and South respectively of the town, and are not part of East Grinstead or its hinterland, but the long-distance routes of the Worth Way and Forest Way pass through the town.</p>	<p><i>The parkland at East Court is a significant open space resource, but in need of improvement – see below.</i></p>	

Snapshot	Issues raised at Steering Group Nov	Issues raised at Community forum
<p>Sackville College is classed as a grade one listed building, and East Court, the town council offices, as a grade two listed building. Within East Grinstead there are approximately 100 listed buildings, in an historic core centred on High Street.</p> <p>An enhancement and traffic management scheme is currently under way along the whole town centre lengths of High Street and London Road.</p>		
<p>The hinterland of East Grinstead is rural and consists of large and small villages. It probably includes some or all of the settlements in the neighbouring parishes of Worth, Turners Hill, West Hoathly, Forest Row, Lingfield and Dormansland.</p>	<p><i>East Grinstead is seen as not yet coalescing with neighbouring large settlements. There is controversy and there are different viewpoints, on the proposals for major housing development west of the town, with its suggestions of 2500 new houses and a southern relief road.</i></p>	

## Economy

Snapshot	Issues raised at Steering Group Nov	Issues raised at Community forum
<p>In mid-1998, there were an estimated 11,900 jobs in the four wards in East Grinstead town, and there seems to have been little change in this number since the 1991 census.</p>	<p><i>The impression of heavy dependence on London commuting is actually not true – more accurate picture is a balance of in and out-commuting, and the dominance of the Gatwick/ Crawley employment area.</i></p>	<p><b>What do you value most about your area?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low unemployment</li> <li>• Proximity to Gatwick – jobs/travel</li> <li>• Tourism</li> </ul>
<p>The unemployment rate of the town was at 0.6% in May 2001 which is low. Of those who were unemployed and claiming benefit in September 2002, only a quarter of them (49 people) had been without a job for more than six months, so the turnover between jobs is relatively fast. The nearest job centre is in Crawley.</p>	<p><i>By and large, the feeling is of a prosperous and comfortable town, although there are some pockets of deprivation – Sackville Gardens, King Georges Avenue, Lester and Newton Avenues and the, Stone Quarry Estate.</i></p>	<p><b>What doesn't work so well?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Variety of shops in E.G.</li> <li>• Too many empty offices – not enough houses</li> </ul>
<p>The 1998 statistics for East Grinstead shows a ratio of 0.9:1 jobs to economically-active residents, which is almost optimal. Within the hinterland the ratios were mostly lower, varying from 0.3:1 in Crawley Down, up to 0.9:1 in Forest Row. These values indicate that the residents are probably employed in East Grinstead or another neighbouring town like Crawley. The exception is Dormansland, which has almost 2 jobs per economically active resident.</p>		<p><b>Concerns for the Future:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural economy</li> <li>• Economic viability of market towns</li> <li>• Skills shortage</li> <li>• Lack of inward investment</li> </ul>
<p>Most businesses are of a medium to small size, and within the town there were no businesses employing more than 250 staff, and only five employing 20-249 staff. East Grinstead has its own chamber of commerce.</p>		

<p>East Grinstead has a service-orientated economy, as demonstrated by the numbers of jobs in different employment sectors.</p> <p>In the town and its hinterland, roughly a quarter of the jobs in the year 2000 were in each of the sectors of: distribution, hotels and restaurants (5720 jobs), banking, finance and insurance (5380 jobs), and public administration, education and health sectors (4630 jobs). Of the remaining quarter, about 9% (1970 jobs) were in manufacturing, none in energy and water, or in agriculture and fishing. There were 1500 jobs in restaurants and hotels in the year 2000</p>	<p><i>There are potential additional tourist-related development opportunities, especially with the planned extension of the Bluebell Line to link with main line services at East Grinstead.</i></p>	
<p>There were no industrial units built in 2000. There were also no shops built or converted in that year. The rent for prime retail unit was £45/sq ft in 1998 when there were 4.5% vacant shops.</p>		
<p>There is a good number of shops in East Grinstead which offer comparison goods, (comparison goods are those such as clothing, DIY goods, computer/electrical equipment.)</p>	<p><i>The shopping centre is perceived as inadequate for the size and nature of the town, with heavy reliance on neighbouring centres for more significant shopping trips. There are however a number of national chains located in the town, and a large number of quality independent retailers. There are seen to be opportunities to extend and improve the Queens Walk shopping centre, but would need also to address the issues of car parking and congestion.</i></p>	
<p>East Grinstead has three supermarkets and eight other convenience stores. Lingfield has four convenience stores, Copthorne three, Forest Row two, and Crawley Down and West Hoathly have one each. Every Saturday morning there is a market in the town, and twice a month there is the addition of a farmers' market.</p>		

<p>There are thirteen pubs in the town, six hotels, eighteen restaurants, one café and nine takeaways. Hotel bed spaces are 396, and Bed and Breakfast bed spaces are 75. In terms of other leisure-time facilities available in the town, there are 18 restaurants, a café and nine take-away outlets. There is no community centre, but the town does have five halls. Chequer Meads arts centre houses a 320-seat theatre, and occasionally shows films as does the exhibition centre. There is also the Moat Pond cinema complex. For more formal meetings, there are five public halls, although no community centre. East Court is open to the public for a short period twice a week, which is the only museum facility in the town, and there is a library close to the High Street. There are three public toilets in the town centre.</p>	<p><i>There is a lively evening economy, with a new cinema, theatre and a growing number of restaurants etc and a trend to conversion to A3 use in parts of the town centre. Nevertheless, Crawley is seen by some as offering a wider range of entertainment.</i></p>	
<p>East Grinstead has five secondary schools (three of which are independent) and eight primary schools.</p> <p>The surrounding settlements all have at least one or the other, with Forest Row having two primary and two secondary schools.</p> <p>For post-16 education, Sackville Community College, and Imberhorne School are both in East Grinstead town, and in Copthorne there is Worth College which is independent.</p>	<p><i>There are real concerns about the lack of opportunity for vocational training locally – most have to travel to Crawley.</i></p>	

## Social and Community

Snapshot	Issues raised at Steering Group Nov	Issues raised at Community forum
<p>In 2000 the town was estimated to have 25,935 residents, which has decreased slightly by a few hundred since 1991. Within this population, in 1998 21% were aged below 16, and 19% were over retirement age (60/65), so there is a substantial number of residents who are not economically-active.</p>	<p><i>Most significant is the redistribution of the age and family household profile, with a tendency for an aging population, and implications for health and other services. There are several sheltered housing schemes in and around the town centre.</i></p> <p><i>Because of the town's position in the growth areas of West Sussex, there are important decisions to be made about the appropriate location for growth, and the availability of affordable housing.</i></p>	<p><b>What do you value most about your area?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreational opportunities</li> <li>• Low crime</li> <li>• Healthy people</li> <li>• Good schools</li> <li>• Good GPs</li> <li>• Good community life</li> <li>• Good hospitals</li> <li>• Good standard of service from 3 tiers of Local Govt</li> <li>• Friendly</li> <li>• Theatre and arts</li> <li>• Good sports provision but beginning to lag behind</li> <li>• Strong and accessible local government</li> <li>• Queen Victoria hospital</li> </ul>
<p>The average house price in East Grinstead between April-June 2002 for all house-types, was £200,939, and has been steadily increasing for many years.. This average is brought up considerably by the very high price of detached houses (of which East Grinstead has many), and it is much higher than the average for house prices in the southeast.</p>	<p><i>There had been a number of negative equity problems in the early 1990's – as a result, the impression was that people are now more static, improving their homes rather than moving.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't use voluntary organisations very well – could increase service provision and support for special needs children and carers</li> <li>• Parental choice of schools</li> <li>• Hospital services</li> <li>• Elderly support services</li> <li>• Community mental health – limited to weekday working hours</li> <li>• Lack of 24 hour backup from facility providers</li> <li>• Safety in EG at night</li> <li>• Criminal damage – hooliganism at night</li> <li>• Rural leisure provision</li> <li>• Anti-social behaviour</li> <li>• Border location</li> <li>• Lack of community spirit</li> <li>• After school and holiday activities</li> <li>• Provision of more local hospice facilities</li> </ul>
<p>East Grinstead is known for its religious diversity, and within the Christian faith there are nine churches in the town; five Church of England, and one each of Roman Catholic, United Reformed, Zion chapel, and Methodist.</p>	<p><i>Many people in East Grinstead are members of a number of faith organisations in addition to Christianity. The international headquarters of the Scientology movement is based in East Grinstead and as a consequence many in the community are practising scientologists and a number of local businesses are run by scientologists. Some members of particular faiths have to travel out of the town for their religion.</i></p>	<p><b>What doesn't work so well?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• House prices</li> <li>• Lack of police (in rural areas)</li> <li>• Hospital waiting times</li> <li>• Lack of childcare</li> <li>• Lack of activities for young people</li> <li>• Social exclusion – juxtaposed with affluence</li> </ul>
<p>East Grinstead falls in the policing area of 'Wealden', and for this whole area in July 2002 the number of recorded crimes was 911, which is 4.45/1000 population. The town has a police station; the nearest magistrates' court is in Crawley, and the nearest county court is in Horsham. The town has its own fire station. East Court is the town hall, and the registry office is combined within the public library. The Citizens Advice Bureau is at Cantelupe road.</p>	<p><i>The position of the town on the county borders makes the opportunity for "joined-up" services between councils and funding bodies of community services a significant issue.</i></p> <p><i>The group felt that East Grinstead had a particular strength in being able to offer a secure environment, in contrast to some of the coastal areas in particular, and therefore a stable and less troublesome environment.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited to weekday working hours</li> <li>• Lack of 24 hour backup from facility providers</li> <li>• Safety in EG at night</li> <li>• Criminal damage – hooliganism at night</li> <li>• Rural leisure provision</li> <li>• Anti-social behaviour</li> <li>• Border location</li> <li>• Lack of community spirit</li> <li>• After school and holiday activities</li> <li>• Provision of more local hospice facilities</li> </ul>

<p>The Kings Leisure Centre has a swimming pool. For outdoor sports there are five recreation grounds and a playing field. Indoor facilities can be found at the six health and fitness centres.</p>	<p><i>The land at East Court, some of which is used for sports, is vested in a number of landowners although the War Memorial Company and East Grinstead Town Council own the freehold of the bulk of the land. The Company is seeking a new master plan and fresh investment for the estate.</i></p>	<p><b>Concerns for the Future:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apathy of local electorate</li> <li>• Keeping young people here – housing</li> <li>• Mobile phone masts – health</li> <li>• Retention of key staff – housing</li> <li>• Central government policy threat to future of playgroups</li> <li>• Danger of loss of social services provision</li> <li>• Isolation of individuals – especially in rural areas</li> <li>• Inadequate provision for increasing number of elderly</li> <li>• Community resource centre too small</li> <li>• Adequate police provision – prime area for drugs</li> <li>• Unplanned influx of refugees</li> <li>• Growing old – dependency ratio</li> <li>• Drugs</li> <li>• Children’s health</li> <li>• Massive increase in bureaucracy</li> <li>• Shortage of resources</li> <li>• House prices</li> </ul>
<p>In terms of everyday facilities, East Grinstead is well supplied: there are five post offices, and eight banks and building societies. There are also fifteen accountancy firms, and six solicitors</p>		
<p>In East Grinstead and its hinterland there are 82 voluntary organisations and societies.</p>	<p><i>The town has a particularly strong voluntary sector, especially the retired population. There are community-led trusts for the theatre and museum, and a variety of partnerships.</i></p>	
<p>East Grinstead’s Queen Victoria hospital has a range of community facilities, as well as a significant international specialist centre for a range of other services including the burns unit. There are also four doctors’ practices and eight dental practices (both including those which are private). There are six opticians shops/practices.</p>	<p><i>The hospital has the status of a centre of excellence for its specialist services, but is seen as continually under threat from larger hospital trusts in the area.</i></p>	



## Transport and Accessibility

Snapshot	Issues raised at Steering Group Nov	Issues raised at Community forum
<p>There is no bus or coach station in East Grinstead. Buses between the town and neighbouring settlements mainly stop on the High Street and often also at the station. East Grinstead rail station, as well as Lingfield and Dormans stations, are on a direct line to London Victoria and the journey takes approximately an hour.</p>		<p><b>What do you value most about your area?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location: urban/rural/commuters: good strategic location</li> </ul> <p><b>What doesn't work so well?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic congestion</li> <li>• Public transport – lack of buses</li> <li>• Poor communications</li> <li>• Parking – lack of/cost</li> <li>• Lack of traffic wardens</li> <li>• Road maintenance</li> <li>• Don't look south – transport</li> <li>• Lack of by-pass</li> <li>• Parking</li> <li>• HGV's in town centre</li> <li>• Spreading the word on new things e.g. community bus – not known about and used</li> </ul>
<p>There are about 1600 parking spaces in the town centre, which excludes those provided at Sainsburys and at the rail station. 578 are short-stay, 320 are long-stay and 700 are on-street</p>		
<p>To travel to Crawley, the nearest large town, takes 37 minutes by bus, 30 minutes by car – there is no direct rail link.</p>		<p><b>Concerns for the Future:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public transport (accessible)</li> <li>• Infrastructure must be related to housing</li> <li>• Transport gridlock</li> </ul>
<p>East Grinstead is served by more than fifteen bus routes between the surrounding villages and nearby rail stations. Between the town itself and its hinterland there are at least twelve.</p>		
<p>The town is served by two major roads - the A22, 11 miles south from its junction with the M25, and the A264, 7 miles east from its junction with the M23.</p>	<p><i>There is much concern about the level of congestion on the A22 and A264. The "relief road" proposal is intended to deal with some of these problems, but is not a complete solution.</i></p>	
<p>East Grinstead has been identified as part of the national Sustrans cycle route from Inverness to Dover.</p>		

Revised 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2003

**ENVIRONMENT WORKSHEETS**

This section contains the following worksheets:

**WORKSHEET EN1 - CHARACTER AND VITALITY OF THE TOWN**

**WORKSHEET EN2 - THE COUNTRYSIDE**

**WORKSHEET EN3 - LINKS BETWEEN TOWN AND COUNTRY**

**WORKSHEET EN1  
CHARACTER AND VITALITY OF THE TOWN**

These questions are aimed at defining the character and vitality of the town, and identifying what aspects make the town distinctive. The quality of open space and parks is dealt with in Worksheet S5. It would be useful to put many of the answers on a map of the town.

If there is not sufficient information available to answer all the questions, new survey work may need to be undertaken. Advice on undertaking a townscape appraisal is given in the Data Sources and Survey Methods Directory.

## CORE QUESTIONS

<p><b>EN1.1</b></p>	<p>What are the main landmarks or distinctive buildings in the town? (Annotate prominent buildings or structures and note any historic or cultural associations). This can be done either from memory or by a survey of the town.</p> <p>Identify the key features that are visually or culturally important and whether these are in good condition</p>	<p><b>Landmarks and distinctive buildings.</b> East Grinstead is a compact country town with an ancient centre closely surrounded by countryside. The undulating pattern of ridges and valleys in and around the town gives a distinctive character and appearance. The topography and extensive tree cover provide an attractive setting. The town's boundaries are constrained to the north by the Surrey Green belt, to the east and south by the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), and to the west and south by the green gaps that separate the town from the villages of Crawley Down and Ashurst Wood. Land to the west of the town also has development restraint status.</p> <p>In prehistoric times the sandstone ridge on which the town is built was crossed by ancient tracks and later Roman roads from the south coast to London passed nearby. About the year 1000 a church was built here to serve the small settlements in the surrounding countryside. Today the main landmark visible for miles around is the parish church of St Swithun's built on the site of previous churches.</p> <p>There are many distinctive buildings in the central Conservation Area including listed buildings in the High Street: Sackville College – grade I; St Swithun's Church – grade II*; and Old Stone House, Clarendon House, Cromwell House, Porch House all grade II*; plus over 50 listed grade II in and around the High Street, Middle Row, Church Lane, De La Warr Road and West Street.</p> <p>All told there are approximately 80 listed buildings within the town and a further 30 or so outside the town, within the parish of East Grinstead, including Standen (National Trust) and former St Margaret's Convent both Grade I.</p> <p>Other buildings and structures have been suggested for statutory listing as follows: Old Post Office, London Road; the churchyard wall in Church Lane; Green Haddin, Coombe Hill Road. A further 14 buildings have been suggested for local listing.</p>
<p><b>EN1.2</b></p>	<p>What are the focal points in the town? (Annotate areas where people congregate such as the market, town square, parks, library, pubs, community centres). This can be done either from memory or by a survey of the town centre.</p> <p>Identify areas where people naturally congregate in the town and whether these vary according to time of year, day of the week or time of day.</p>	<p><b>Focal points.</b> Shopping areas in London Road, High Street, Railway Approach, Ship Street and West Street. The High Street area generally, including the War Memorial. County Library, The Atrium, Chequer Mead Theatre &amp; Community Centre, Town Council Offices, Meridian Hall, the Old Court House at East Court and East Court grounds. Various churches of a number of faiths and many schools.</p> <p>There are many restaurants and public houses; farmers markets; the King's Centre; Dunnings Mill Health and Leisure Centre; and a major Sports Centre near Saint Hill. Nightclubs in London Road and at the Atrium in King Street; and cinema at the Atrium.</p>

<p><b>EN1.3</b></p>	<p>Is there an historic core to the town? (Annotate any Conservation Areas and where there is a concentration of listed buildings). Information on Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings can be obtained from the District Council and may be shown on the Local Plan proposals map.</p> <p>Identify areas with strong historic associations.</p>	<p><b>Historic core.</b> The town's important historic centre is within the High Street, Middle Row, Parish Church and Sackville College area. Historic associations include the Martyrs' memorial by the church south door and in the churchyard a memorial to John Mason Neale warden of Sackville College 1846-1866. Much of the central area was designated a Conservation Area in 1969, subsequently extended and classified as outstanding.</p> <p>Away from the centre a more recent historic association is that of Sir Archibald McIndoe who pioneered plastic surgery during the Second World War at the Queen Victoria Hospital on the Holtye Road. The QVH contains a unique museum which visitors are invited to see on Heritage Open Days and every Wednesday afternoon.</p> <p>More recently parts of the town have been designated Townscape Protection Areas (TPAs) that require special consideration of planning applications. Three of these areas are to be found at the northern edge of the town; and a further 5 in central areas. These areas are now referred to as Areas of Townscape Character. The Local Plan proposals map and policy B16 in the revised deposit draft refer to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North End/Furze Lane/ Sackville Lane;</li> <li>• Grosvenor Road/Crescent Road/Maypole Road;</li> <li>• Copyhold Road/ Brooklands Way;</li> <li>• West Hill/West Lane;</li> <li>• De La Warr Road;</li> <li>• College Lane/Old Road;</li> <li>• Holtye Road; and</li> <li>• Furze field Road, Baldwins Hill.</li> </ul> <p>Policy B16 and the accompanying text defines the raison d'etre for TPAs / ATCs. A report to a working party in January 1992 described the nature of each one - no further work has been done since, but it is intended to prepare some detailed information and supplementary planning guidance (SPG) for these in the near future.</p> <p>In addition to the TPAs the attractive Victorian terrace at the start of West Street should be considered to ensure its protection. An earlier terrace of the 1850s further up West Street should also be taken into account.</p> <p>The local plan also refers to the following features that make an important</p>
---------------------	---	---

		<p><b>contribution to the quality of the local environment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The tree lined approaches to the town, particularly London Road, West Hill, and Lewes Road;</li> <li>• The fingers of woodland which extend into the town (including for example along the disused railway lines), and the trees and tree groups which help soften building lines and act as a foil to new development;</li> <li>• The outcrops of sandstone in road cuttings such as in Hermitage Lane and Blackwell Hollow; and</li> <li>• The attractive grounds of East Court which provide a very important and accessible local amenity, close to the town centre and the neighbouring residential estates.</li> </ul> <p>Railway Approach is mentioned elsewhere as requiring attention but it should also be considered as an area worthy of investigation to review any surviving historical buildings.</p>
<p><b>EN1.4</b></p>	<p>Are there any individual and/or groups of buildings which display design, detailing or materials which give the town a distinctive character? (Annotate where these buildings are and their key characteristics). This can be done through a quick survey of the town.</p> <p>Identify where these buildings are their key distinguishing features.</p>	<p><b>Distinctive character or design.</b> Most of the High Street listed buildings have distinctive characteristics: for example timber-framing, sometimes brick-faced, Horsham stone roofs, some use of local sandstone, plots of standard width . The Old Post Office (King Street) is a good example of a late Victorian (1896) public building. The Water Tower (1914). A garage (Caffyns) in King Street is an example of art deco. Sackville College is an excellent example of early 17<sup>th</sup> Century quality building. The Chequer Mead Arts Centre is a good example of a Victorian School redeveloped for a modern purpose.</p> <p>Other buildings of note are: (1) Whitehall Building ( 1936 by F Edward Jones)in London Road with its long façade, plainly - almost bleakly – handled, typical of the architectural style of the period. Mounted on the front is a bronze plaque to mark the 1943 bombing of the then cinema with great loss of life. (2) The Atrium in King Street was built in 1991 to a controversial design which is nevertheless a good example of its type. (3) The Copyhold Estate was the town’s first big council housing development (1921 by Mathews and Ridley) and comprised 101 houses in a modest area. Built in local vernacular style on garden city lines.</p>

<p><b>EN1.5</b></p>	<p>Are there any unattractive areas in the town? (Annotate where there are any buildings in need of repair/restoration, vacant buildings, areas of derelict land and building design unsympathetic to the local character). This can be done through a survey of the town, concentrating on the centre</p> <p>Identify specific buildings or areas that are in need of attention and find out from the District Council whether there are any specific proposals to revitalise/develop them</p>	<p><b>Unattractive areas.</b> Railway Approach and the adjacent railway and bus station areas are the subject of a design study at the moment, and this will ultimately become Supplementary Planning Guidance in the form of a development brief. The intention is to upgrade this area for when the Bluebell Railway arrives at EG in around 2006, to secure new station and interchange facilities, and to make Railway Approach more attractive in townscape terms for when it becomes a link between the station and the town centre. This will include consideration of any historic buildings or associations..</p> <p><b>Empty office blocks in Cantelupe Road could be considered for conversion into apartments.</b> Empty and unfit houses in Queens Road need much attention or redevelopment. The stretch of London Road from Lingfield Road to Moat Road needs a planned uplift over a long period. Further along London Road the entrance to Green Hedges Avenue and along that road need uplifting and possibly future redevelopment.</p> <p><b>A building in need of some maintenance work is Old Stone House, one of the listed buildings in the High Street; in addition to repair work pigeon roosting places need to be screened or removed to clear the footpath of mess which is positively dangerous at times. A solution to the pigeon mess at Cromwell House is also required.</b></p> <p><b>The Railway Station area has been referred to elsewhere as in need of redevelopment or at least uplift to coincide with the extension of the Bluebell Line to East Grinstead. No specific proposals have been made by the Council but have been urged by the voluntary public transport co-ordinator, in conjunction with a re-sited and purpose-designed bus station.</b></p> <p><b>Although Queens Walk could not be described as a "worst area" it requires improvement or better still redevelopment as part of a comprehensive redevelopment scheme- the local plan positively encourages this (policy EG14). Similarly the area based on King Street, London Road and Christopher Road (policy EG12).</b></p>
---------------------	---	--

<p><b>EN1.6</b></p>	<p>Are there any distinctive features which define the limits of the town, such as historic city walls, a river or a bypass? (Annotate any defining features). This can be done through a quick survey or through the use of maps or aerial photographs.</p> <p>Identify whether the boundary of the town is clearly defined.</p>	<p><b>Distinctive features.</b> The town's boundary is clear because where buildings cease green areas immediately or soon begin; there was some ribbon development but not enough to damage the overall impression of an attractive town. The boundary of the inner historic core is also distinct.</p> <p>This characteristic is one of the town's strengths and must be preserved through constant attention by the relevant Councils. On this issue currently of much concern to many townspeople is that the West Sussex County Council 2001-2016 Structure Plan could involve major westward expansion into what is now a strategic green gap between East Grinstead and Crawley. The area is on rising ground, has proved archaeological importance and is the one part of the parish comprising distinct arable land with nesting birds, for example skylarks, not readily found elsewhere in the parish. To the north Surrey soon begins with some ribbon development on the A264 but generally green areas with woodland interspersed with scattered trees in new developments. Eastward open country appears before the village of Ashurst Wood. South and east of the town is the beautiful High Weald AON B.</p> <p>Within the town are distinctive former railway lines including The Beeching Way which is now a much-used A22 diversion; and St Margaret's Loop due to become a cycleway and nature sanctuary. Redevelopment of St Margaret's Loop could include more than simply a cycleway. For example information signs for people exploring the railway heritage of the town, linked to other aspects of its 19<sup>th</sup> Century history. There are future plans being developed for this area by Sustrans and others. Natural clefts within the town, for example Hermitage Lane, provide character and interest having been Saxon or earlier drove routes leading to parent settlements of local estates.</p> <p>Three distinctive mileposts showing distance from London are within the parish. A central one is located on London Road near Boots Chemist. The other two are located a mile south on the A22 and on the A22 north. The latter are in good repair. The one in the centre should be refurbished and more clearly presented as an interesting reminder of coaching and turnpike days. Signs at boundaries with Ashurst Wood and Felbridge (1953 coronation). Millennium Meridian markers starting at East Court are worthy of mention.</p>
---------------------	---	--

<p><b>EN1.7</b></p>	<p>Are the buildings, streets and furniture in the town center in good condition? Are there opportunities to enhance these?</p> <p>Identify both areas and aspects which are in need of action.</p>	<p><b>Condition of buildings, streets etc.</b> In the High Street and London Road a major refurbishment project is underway managed by WSCC. On project completion in 2003 a new review of potential further improvements should be made by the Council and other concerned bodies especially in the High Street. The review should include: (a) state of pavements not covered by the project including unevenness and chewing gum; (b) state of decoration of the High Street buildings in particular; (c) superfluous signs; (d) pigeon dropping mess now in 3 places along the High Street; the drinking fountain has lost its replacement dolphins. A handrail is in prospect. The Queen's Walk linking London Road with the Queen's Road car park needs developing from its rather basic appearance.</p> <p>In Queen's Road are houses no longer fit for occupation. This area is crying out for redevelopment and has been for some years including the possible development of car park.</p> <p>A public lavatory is required in the Queen's Walk area..</p>
<p><b>EN1.8</b></p>	<p>Are the 'main gateways' to the town centre attractive and well maintained (including train and bus stations)? Are there opportunities to enhance these?</p> <p>Identify particular routes and locations in need of improvement.</p>	<p><b>Main gateways.</b> Generally satisfactory but as indicated elsewhere the area around the Railway Station could be improved. Changes there would include the station building itself and a new integrated bus station immediately available to travellers off trains. Within the station itself the planned rail link with the Bluebell Railway will require platform changes and other work including disabled access required by legislation.</p> <p>The need to uplift Railway Approach has been mentioned in EN1.5. Similarly mentioned in EN1.5 a part of London Road from the Lingfield Road south needs a long term plan to improve its overall appearance as an important entry to the town.</p>
<p><b>EN1.9</b></p>	<p>Are the main pedestrian routes between car parks and the town centre attractive, well maintained and safe to use during the day and at night?</p> <p>Identify priorities for improvement.</p>	<p><b>Pedestrian routes.</b> The lighting along some parts of Institute Walk leading to King Street from Chequer Mead car park should be reviewed and also barriers in Cantelupe Road.</p> <p>The pedestrian walk from the Railway Station upper car park should be reviewed for lighting quality and the steps down to the station. The car park itself is rather forbidding after sunset and surfaces need attention.</p> <p>From Chequer Mead to High Street through the churchyard more or increased lighting is required.</p>



## SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

<p><b>EN1.10</b></p>	<p>Are there any townscape or heritage initiatives currently underway in the town? (Find out whether initiatives e.g. Historic Economic Regeneration Scheme, Local Heritage Initiatives, Conservation Area Partnership Schemes, Historic Building Grants are active in the town). This information is held by the District Council where the most useful contact will be the conservation officer.</p> <p>Identify areas which are to be improved.</p>	<p><b>A town centre enhancement project is currently under way, due for completion in 2003. A joint monitoring group has been established to review progress on implementation of the scheme. When completed it will be for WSCC, MSDC and EGTC to review the works and any further extensions, including in consultation with local groups and through the Urban Transport Plan Forum.</b></p> <p><b>The new Town Museum will be a fine addition to the street scene and by its work enhance understanding and appreciation of the town and its history.</b></p> <p><b>Plans are progressing for a Conservation Area at East Court.</b></p>
<p><b>EN1.11</b></p>	<p>Is the town centre dominated by shops or are there a range of other uses which take place such as housing and employment? (Annotate the different land uses in the town centre). This can be done through a survey of the town. The Local Plan proposal map will also provide a useful starting point.</p> <p>Identify whether there is a diverse mix of uses in the town centre.</p>	<p><b>Mix of uses in town centre. The town centre has an attractive mix of Conservation Area buildings, including some specialist shops - largely in the High Street – away from, but leading to, the shopping and business area in London Road and adjoining roads. Therefore the town centre is not dominated by any particular use but has a varied feel about it. There are, however, off the High Street several office blocks in Cantelupe Road (just off the Conservation Area) some of which have been vacant for three years or so. There is a current planning proposal to convert one of these office blocks into apartments. Similarly the successful transformation of rooms above shops into flats in the centre of town should be extended, possibly through encouraging housing associations to get involved and by other means. The town would benefit if more people lived in or close to the central area.</b></p> <p><b>The local plan supports "housing over the shop", re-use of upper floors for flats etc. The re-use / conversion of vacant office buildings such as in Cantelupe Road is more controversial. There is a policy seeking to retain employment uses other than in exceptional circumstances. The office sector is currently very flat and offices remain vacant for long periods- but there needs to be a sound base of commercial properties to provide sustainable local employment, and to help meet future needs if the town is to be extended further to the west with up to 3000 houses.</b></p> <p><b>Toward the north end of London Road beyond the Beeching Way office blocks with car parks above are unattractively visible from the southwest Turners Hill approach. This is mentioned in passing since nothing can be done about such major buildings that serve a useful office purpose if occupied.</b></p>

<p><b>EN1.12</b></p>	<p>Are there areas in the town which are over-cluttered with signs, street furniture, advertising hoardings etc? (Annotate areas where there are concentrations of signage and street furniture). This can be done through a quick survey of the town.</p> <p>Identify areas where signage and street furniture could be rationalised or new signage or street furniture provided.</p>	<p><b>Excess of street furniture.</b> We have no major problems with signs, street furniture etc because local Councils and the East Grinstead Society have been generally successful in limiting this potential problem. Graffiti are not a significant issue in the town but there is room for some improvement; the Bluebell Line viaduct, a listed edifice, needs attention in this respect</p> <p>The standard of street cleaning could be improved for example along Ship Street and West Street where manual street cleaning is required because of cars. The frequency of clearing general litter along the banks and verges along Beeching Way could be increased.</p> <p>Pedestrian signs for visitors around the town are painted gilt on green which soon becomes difficult to read. A new colour scheme is required to improve legibility.</p>
<p><b>EN1.13</b></p>	<p>Are there important groups of trees which are either covered by Tree Preservation Orders or are important to the character of the town? (Annotate the presence of important trees or groups of trees). Information on Tree Preservation Orders is available from the District Council.</p> <p>Identify where trees add to the character of the town</p>	<p><b>Trees.</b> East Grinstead is well wooded in many areas of the town and in the approaches to it notably on London Road, West Hill, Lewes Road and Blackwell Hollow. There are numerous tree preservation orders in existence. Trees add to its character in many parts of the town including in cuttings, around Sackville College, and through the presence of planes and cherry trees in the High Street. East Grinstead's skyline benefits greatly from the trees, singly and in clumps visible for miles around.</p>

**WORKSHEET EN2  
THE COUNTRYSIDE**

These questions help identify the basic data required to evaluate the quality of the countryside in close proximity to the town and its sensitivity to change. It will prove useful to map many of the answers.

If there is not sufficient information available to answer the questions, it may be helpful to undertake a landscape character assessment. Guidance on survey techniques is given in the Data Sources and Survey Methods Directory.

**CORE QUESTIONS**

<p><b>EN2.1</b></p>	<p>Does the local countryside have a distinctive character? (Identify the characteristics of the countryside e.g. is it farmed land, heathland or moorland, is it open in character or are there small fields with hedgerows or dry stone walls, are there traditional settlements). A landscape character assessment may have been undertaken by the County or District Council, or the information could be collected through a local survey. Identify the elements that make the countryside distinctive and attractive.</p>	<p><b>Distinctive character. The countryside of the parish is hilly and a mixture of woodland and farmed land. The latter is largely pasture; there is some arable on the west side of the town. Rounded fields are hedged with attractive dells, shaws, woods, ponds and streams. There are scattered farms and cottages. Weir Wood Reservoir created from a flooded valley forms the southern parish boundary. There are delightful views in all directions, footpaths, linear parks and sandstone outcrops.</b></p>
<p><b>EN2.2</b></p>	<p>Is the landscape of high quality? (Identify areas that are of national, regional or local importance i.e. areas that are covered by national or local landscape designations or are within a national park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty). Landscape designations should be shown on the Local Plan proposals map. Alternatively, for local designations contact the District Council and for national designations, the Countryside Agency.</p> <p>Identify areas of high landscape quality.</p>	<p><b>The landscape quality is high. The south and east of the parish is designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. To the west the open fields between East Grinstead and Crawley Down are designated a Countryside Area of Development Restraint. The north of the parish is the border with Surrey with its Metropolitan Green Belt. The Worth Way (a disused railway line) is a bridleway designated as a Site of Nature Conservation Importance. The Forest Way, also a former railway line, runs through attractive country to the village of Forest Row and is designated a Linear Open Space. To the northwest of the central area a disused rail cutting (St Margaret's Loop) is designated a Site of Nature Conservation Importance. All these are of high landscape quality and include a number of listed buildings as described elsewhere.</b></p>

EN2.3	<p>Is the countryside important for agriculture? (Identify areas of Grade 1, 2 and 3a agricultural land). This information may be held by the County Council or alternatively, contact the regional branch of the MAFF.</p>	<p><b>Agriculture.</b> The parish of East Grinstead contains little Grade 1, 2 or 3a good quality agricultural land (Grades 3b, 4 and 5 being poor).</p>
EN2.4	<p>Is the countryside important for nature conservation? (Identify areas which have national, regional or local wildlife designations, e.g. RAMSAR, Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, National Nature Reserves, Local Nature Reserves, Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation). Information can be obtained from the District or County Council or English Nature. Most of these designations should be shown on the Local Plan proposals map.</p> <p>Identify areas important for wildlife.</p>	<p><b>Nature conservation.</b> Running from the town to the west and southeast are two former rail lines now bridleways (Worth Way and Forest Way) that are designated Linear Open Spaces used by walkers and cyclists. These open spaces are important for nature conservation. Ashplats Wood to the north-east of the town is designated a Site of Nature Conservation Importance. At Stone Rocks to the north of Weir Wood Reservoir is a small Site of Special Scientific Interest.</p> <p>There also some areas of ancient woodland around the town, including at the Birches Industrial Estate.</p>
EN2.5	<p>Are there areas of historic importance? (Identify areas with concentrations of Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, historic parkland, Scheduled Ancient Monuments [SAM], and areas of Archaeological Importance). Information on Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, SAM, archaeologically-important areas and Historic Parks and Gardens can be obtained from the District Council and some will be shown on the Local Plan proposals map. Alternatively, contact English Heritage.</p> <p>Identify areas with historic or architectural importance.</p>	<p><b>Historic importance.</b> There are several areas in the parish of historic importance notably the High Street Conservation Area. Concentrations of listed buildings are in the Standen group (5) and at the Saint Hill (6) conservation area to the south. Another 40 or so listed buildings, in addition to those in the town centre, are scattered within the parish. See earlier entry for details. Brockhurst off the Lewes Road is classed as a Garden of Historic Importance. Current research is highlighting the archaeological potential of several areas. (Hitherto little archaeological work has been done). There are mesolithic shelters at Stone Rocks</p>

## SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

<p><b>EN2.6</b></p>	<p>Is the countryside being actively managed? (Identify areas that are covered by countryside management or stewardship schemes such as the Countryside Stewardship Scheme, Environmentally Sensitive Areas, Nitrate Sensitive Areas, Habitat Scheme, Moorland Scheme, Organic Aid Scheme or Countryside Access Scheme). Information on these schemes can be obtained from the District or County Council or by contacting the Countryside Agency or the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Environment Agency.</p> <p>Identify areas being actively managed to maintain and improve the environmental quality of the countryside.</p>	<p><b>Countryside management.</b> The strategy and policies for the area have been set out by MSDC in a comprehensive draft document ‘A Landscape and Biodiversity Strategy for Mid Sussex’ dated December 2000. The document establishes the approach of the strategy its concepts and implementation methods; sets out the policies to support the strategy; reviews the landscape and biodiversity of the area; and describes present and new initiatives. More work on a biodiversity strategy is currently underway. No action plan yet</p> <p><b>On East Grinstead’s southern edge is the High Weald Natural Area and to the west the Low Weald Natural Area both described in the MSDC document.</b></p>
<p><b>EN2.7</b></p>	<p>Are there plans for major change on the urban edge? (Identify proposals for major development or enhancement schemes such as community forest). Information can be obtained from the District Council and planned changes will be shown on the Local Plan proposals map.</p> <p>Identify areas on the urban fringe that may change in character</p>	<p><b>Urban edge changes.</b> One major issue is that of the proposal to develop extensively land to the west of Imberhorne as part of the WSCC Strategic Plan 2001 – 2016 together with a ‘relief road’ that would have severe environmental impact. This is referred to earlier at EN1.6. No other plans are known but current pressures mean all areas are potentially at risk.</p> <p><b>MSDC (and WSCC and EGTC) support major residential development to the west of EG. Although commonly referred to as Imberhorne Farm, if the EIP Panel recommend acceptance at a strategic level it will be for MSDC and WSCC to investigate alternative options and consult. There is no doubt such a development will have a significant impact but there is a view (held by the Councils and others) that this is outweighed by the benefits of new development. Such a development could only take place with a new relief road, and this too would have an impact and would in part pass through the AONB. This will be controversial to say the least! If major new housing development at EG is accepted in principle this will be a matter for the next local plan- i.e. post 2006- and not the current one.</b></p>

**WORKSHEET EN3**  
**LINKS BETWEEN TOWN AND COUNTRY**

These questions are aimed at identifying the visual and physical links that exist between the town and country. It will be useful to put many of the answers on a map. Most of the functional links between the town and country relate to the town's role as a shopping centre and where people visit to access local services. Accessibility to services is covered in Worksheet T2.

**CORE QUESTIONS**

<p>EN3.1</p>	<p>Are there natural or man-made features such as rivers, canals, roads or railway corridors that link the town and country? (Annotate elements that provide physical and visual links between the country and town). This can be done either from a local survey or through the use of maps or aerial photographs.</p> <p>Identify elements which link the town and country both physically and visually</p>	<p><b>Natural or man-made features. East Grinstead is set in the country and is closely surrounded by countryside. There are at least 20 rural walks using Public Footpaths that start from the town and finish back there. The only remaining rail link from the town is north toward Surrey and London.</b></p> <p><b>The main roads are the A22 north to Surrey and south to Ashdown Forest and the coast; and the A264 west to Crawley and Gatwick, and east to East Sussex and Tunbridge Wells. There are no canals or rivers although the River Medway has its source near Turners Hill and then proceeds via Dunnings Mill toward Tonbridge and onward to the Thames.</b></p> <p><b>Within the parish are many minor roads, some extremely attractive winding and going up and down through woodland and country, increasingly used as 'rat runs' by traffic in the absence of an East Grinstead bypass. The church tower acts as a visual focus.</b></p>
<p>EN3.2</p>	<p>Are there distinctive design elements found in both the town and the surrounding countryside? (Identify the presence of distinctive local house types, local architectural detailing and use of local materials). This can be done by undertaking a local, visual survey.</p> <p>Identify common features that provide visual continuity between development in the town and country and where they are to be found e.g. which villages.</p>	<p><b>Distinctive design elements in town and country. The design of medieval and later timber-framed houses in the town's Conservation Area is paralleled in a number of houses in the countryside. Similarly later houses built of local sandstone can be found inside and out of the town. Sussex-style tile-hung cottages built of local brick are frequently to be found in the parish, both urban and rural.</b></p> <p><b>The best nearby examples may be found at Lingfield, Cowden, Hartfield and West Hoathly.</b></p>

EN3.3	<p>Are there any memorable views either from the town to the countryside or from the countryside of the town? Identify memorable views in terms of what they are views of and where the view can be seen from e.g. the view from a town square to a distant village church or a view of the town from a surrounding hill.</p>	<p><b>Memorable views are from the west and south sides of the town toward Ashdown Forest and the Forest ridges westward extension and, more distantly, north to the North Downs from roads in the Gardenwood Estate. Glimpses of Weir Wood reservoir add interest.</b> <b>At over 400 feet above sea level the parish church tower of St Swithun's is a notable sight from many points approaching the town and can be seen from high points on Ashdown Forest. The town and church looking north from Coombe Hill Road give an especially noteworthy scene.</b></p>
EN3.4	<p>Are historic commercial links between the town and country still apparent? (Annotate the presence of surviving features such as market halls, a corn exchange, mills, wharves, market squares). This can be done through a quick local survey.</p> <p>Identify strong commercial associations between town and country.</p>	<p><b>Historic commercial links. There are few obvious historic commercial links between town and country remaining. The lay-out and appearance of the High Street indicate its market-place origins. The Dorset Arms public house site in the High Street dates from at least the 17<sup>th</sup> century and the town's importance as a coach stage between London and the south coast gives it historic significance.</b> <b>Near the railway station remains of the East Grinstead to Three Bridges 1855 link to the London – Brighton main line may be found in the form of the Old Station House and some old brickwork.</b> <b>At the Dunnings Mill public house on the edge of the town remains of an early water mill can be seen.</b> <b>Windmill Lane on the north side is a reminder of what was once on East Grinstead's common.</b> <b>The Water Tower dated 1914 near Chequer Mead was built to provide supplies to the upper part of the town.</b> <b>Hospital, schools, shops, buses etc still serve much the same catchment areas as for centuries past.</b></p>
EN3.5	<p>Does the character of the surrounding countryside become less distinct the closer it gets to the town edge?</p>	<p><b>Countryside and town. One of the town's best features is its sudden transition from urban to country around much of the town's edge. No examples of obtrusive edge-of-town activity have been identified.</b></p>

<p>EN3.6</p>	<p>How does the town sit in the landscape? Are there opportunities to enhance the urban edge by, for example, planting or even development that will make the town more attractive?</p> <p>Identify key views of the town for approach roads and identify opportunities to enhance and manage the fringes of the town.</p>	<p><b>Town and landscape. The town sits well above the surrounding landscape which itself is very attractive. Approaches are generally tree-lined and none cry out for enhancement, planting or other management steps.</b></p> <p><b>The local plan does include a policy- EG1- seeking to protect and enhance the overall appearance and character of the town, the landscape setting of the town and views from outside the town and on its approaches. All Conservation Areas will need to have their settings safeguarded. Current CA proposals include land at Estcots which is on the edge of the town and so important to its setting and character.</b></p>
--------------	--	--



## SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

<p>EN3.7</p>	<p>Are there any long distance or locally important footpaths, cycle paths or bridleways linking town and country? (Annotate important links). Information on footpaths, cyclepaths and bridlepaths can be obtained from the County Council, who should have a Rights of Way Officer.</p> <p>Identify important recreational links between town and country.</p>	<p><b>Recreational links between town and country. Residents of East Grinstead are fortunate in having quick and easy access to the countryside. From the west the Sussex Border Path takes the line of the Worth Way through the town to move north across the A264 Holtye Road. The Border Path also has a southerly arm along the Forest Way. From the south the High Weald Landscape Trail reaches the town via West Hill. Disused railway tracks now used for walking and cycling are the Worth Way west to Three Bridges, part of the national cycleway, Gatwick to Dover; and the Forest Way south to Forest Row and Groombridge.</b></p> <p><b>From the town an ancient and still-used track, Hermitage Lane, from the parish church goes south in a quiet way to become Harwoods Lane on to listed farms (Boyles and Busses) to the parish border at Weir Wood Reservoir. There are paths to Fairlight and to Mills's Rocks. East Grinstead has good and developing links to the Sustrans cycle network</b></p>
--------------	--	--

## **SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY WORKSHEETS**

This section contains the following worksheets:

WORKSHEET S1  
POPULATION

WORKSHEET S2  
HOUSING

WORKSHEET S3  
HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY

WORKSHEET S4  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

WORKSHEET S5  
SPORT, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACE

WORKSHEET S6  
CULTURE AND HERITAGE

These should be answered along with the worksheets in the environmental, economic and transport sections. Advice on answering the worksheets is provided in the Healthcheck Handbook.

Contact details for all national and regional organisations mentioned in these worksheets can be found in the Directory of Contacts.

**WORKSHEET S1  
POPULATION**

These questions seek to define the population profile of the town and surrounding countryside. This assessment and particularly the baseline data collected will be important for many of the other assessments contained in these worksheets. Much of the information required to answer these questions will have been collected for the 'snapshot'.

**CORE QUESTIONS**

<p><b>S1.1</b></p>	<p>What proportion of the total population live in the town as compared to the hinterland? (Compare the total population with that for the town and hinterland separately). The information is available from the Census of Population.</p>	<p><b>East Grinstead population (N/E/S/W wards) = 25700 (1998)</b>  <b>Hinterland population (wards of Turners Hill, West Hoathly, Copthorne &amp; Worth, Crawley Down, Forest Row, Hartfield, Felbridge, Lingfield &amp; Crowhurst) = 28400 (1998)</b>  <b>48% of the total population live in the town.</b></p>
<p><b>S1.2</b></p>	<p>What proportion of the population is of retirement age i.e. over 65/60? (Compare number of people over 65/60 with the total population of the area and then compare with regional and national averages.) The information is available from the Census of Population.</p> <p>Identify whether there is a high proportion of elderly people.</p>	<p><b>19% in Mid-Sussex in 2001, for women 60 or over, men 65 or over. This is the same percentage as for the four wards in East Grinstead for both genders aged 60 or above. In the town's hinterland, the average percentage is slightly higher.</b></p>
<p><b>S1.3</b></p>	<p>What proportion of the population is under 16? (Compare number of children under 16 with the total population of the area and then compare with regional and national averages.) The information is available from the Census of Population.</p> <p>Identify whether there is high or low proportion of young people.</p>	<p><b>21% of the population of the town was aged under 16 in 1998. This is the same as for the hinterland. This is about the same as the percentage for Mid-Sussex in 2001.</b></p>
<p><b>S1.4</b></p>	<p>What proportion of the population have professional and managerial jobs? (Compare the ratio of the above groups as a proportion of the total number of people employed and then compare with the regional and national averages.) The information is available from the Census of Population.</p> <p>Identify whether there is a high or low proportion of professional and managerial workers.</p>	<p><b>27% of employees in West Sussex between March 2001 and Feb 2002 had professional or managerial jobs.</b></p>

<b>S1.5</b>	<p>What proportion of the population have semi-skilled manual and unskilled jobs? (Compare the ratio of the above groups as a proportion of the total number of workers and compare with the regional and national averages). The information is available from the Census of Population or employment surveys.</p> <p>Identify whether there is a high or low proportion of semi-skilled and manual workers.</p>	<p><b>18% of employees in West Sussex between March 2001 and Feb 2002 had semi-skilled or unskilled jobs.</b></p>
<b>S1.6</b>	<p>What proportion of total households are single parent households? (Compare the ratio of single parent households as a proportion of the total number of households and then compare against the regional and national averages.) The information is available from the Census of Population.</p> <p>Identify if there is a high or low proportion of single parent households.</p>	<p><b>EG has a higher number single parent households than most communities in West Sussex, but the average number of children per household is about average for the county.</b></p>
<b>S1.7</b>	<p>What proportion of total households are elderly people living alone? (Compare the ratio of elderly people living alone as a proportion of the total number of households and compare with the regional and national averages.) The information is available from the Census of Population.</p> <p>Identify if there are a significant number of elderly people living alone.</p>	<p><b>EG has an average of 22% of the households in the wards being those of elderly people (living alone. This is approximately the same as for the rest of the district, but there are disparities within even the town itself (eg in EG East 25% of the households are 85+ ages women living alone, but in EG North the proportion is 64%).</b></p>
<b>S1.8</b>	<p>Has the population of the town and hinterland grown or declined in the last ten years? (Compare population levels from the 1981 and 1991 Census). The information is available from the Censuses of Population for 1981 and 1991. Note that there were some ward boundary changes between the 1981 and 1991 Censuses. The 2001 Census will provide up to date information.</p> <p>Identify whether the population of the area is growing or in decline</p>	<p><b>The town has increased very slightly in population in the last ten years, with little change in the hinterland.</b></p> <p><b>No significant changes identified.</b></p>

## WORKSHEET S2 HOUSING

These questions are aimed at finding out the basic data required to evaluate the housing situation in the town and surrounding countryside. Cross reference this to Worksheet S1 on population.

If there is not sufficient information available to answer the questions, it may be possible to work with the district council to do an up-to-date housing needs assessment. Guidance on housing needs assessment is given in Data Sources and Survey Methods.

### CORE QUESTIONS

<b>S2.1</b>	What types of houses/flats are currently available? (Identify the types of properties by type e.g. one-bed flat or four-bed detached cottage that are on the market) Contact local estate agents to get a general feel for the local housing market and contact the District Council and Local Housing Associations about their own housing stock.  Identify how many and what types of housing are available	<b>Houses normally available are 3 or 4 bed with a number of these being converted to single bed sit. No figures for numbers at present.</b>
-------------	--	--

<p><b>S2.2</b></p>	<p>How much and what types of new housing is being planned in your area? (Identify areas where new housing is planned and note the number and type of housing). Information on planned housing can be found in the Local Plan and is shown on the proposals map. For further information contact the District Council planning department.</p> <p>Identify where and how much new housing is being planned.</p>	<p><b>All new housing will be on Brownfield sites. Greenfield will be discouraged these will be considered shortly with Local Plan revision. The present Local Plan estimates a total of 172 dwellings. Amongst those projected, ? or in the pipeline are – the old Gas Works 35 units with 30% affordable, Lawn Tennis Club 40 dwellings, Railway Approach 28 flats for the elderly, Orchard Way 12 flats, Stone Quarry Woods 35 dwellings with 40% affordable, Fairfield Road 52 units for the over 65s, Neale House 62 units for the elderly. West of East Grinstead a minimum of 2000 mixed development by 2016.</b></p>
<p><b>S2.3</b></p>	<p>Is existing local housing in good condition? (Identify areas where housing is in poor condition e.g. problems with damp, lack of central heating, external and structural problems, level of disrepair). Information can be obtained from the District Council who are likely to have undertaken a housing condition survey.</p> <p>Identify areas in need of maintenance and restoration.</p>	<p><b>Pockets of unfitness in the rented sector with lack of facilities and means of escape. Lack of financial ability for those on low income to maintain their property or to support energy efficiency. Mid Sussex is to deliver a new policy for renewal assistance in 2003.</b></p>
<p><b>S2.4</b></p>	<p>Is local housing affordable? (Compare local income levels with average house prices and rent levels). The District Council may have undertaken their own survey of house prices and incomes. Alternatively, information on gross weekly earnings is available from the New Earnings Survey, published by the Office for National Statistics (<a href="http://www.statistics.gov.uk/PartE">www.statistics.gov.uk/PartE</a>). Average house prices and rent levels can be ascertained from local estate agents.</p> <p>Identify if local people can afford to live in the area.</p>	<p><b>Local housing is not affordable. Average price of houses in the area is £178,000 needing an income of £59,000 for a mortgage. Typical rent for 1 bed flat is £500/month.</b></p>

<p><b>S2.5</b></p>	<p>Is homelessness a problem in the area? (Compare local homeless levels with regional and national averages). Local levels of homelessness are compiled by the District Council for the Housing Investment Programme. At the national level Statutory Homelessness Statistics are collated by the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions.</p> <p>Identify whether homelessness levels are significant.</p>	<p><b>There are an estimated 665 on the homeless register. Register priority No1 is physical disability, No2 is mental health, No3 is learning disability.</b></p>
<p><b>S2.6</b></p>	<p>Do local people have priority in accessing affordable housing? (Look at the allocation rules for Council waiting lists and the nomination agreements between the Council and the Housing Associations). The information is held by the District Council housing department and by Housing Associations.</p> <p>Identify if there is local priority for affordable housing.</p>	<p><b>Local people do not have any priority, social reasons only. The priority for affordable housing is on the District Council's agenda for 2003/2004.</b></p>
<p><b>S2.7</b></p>	<p>Is sufficient specialist housing being made available for the elderly? (Compare demand for specialist housing with current and planned provision). Information can be obtained from the District Council and Housing Associations.</p> <p>Identify if there is a need to supply more specialist housing for the elderly.</p>	<p><b>The population is estimated to increase by 3.6% between 1996-2006. The largest increase will be in the over 60s and 68% is expected to consist of single person households. More specialised accommodation for intermediate care as we now have at Dart Court and proposed development in Fairfield Road for the frail elderly. In March 2003 there will be a register of housing suitable for people with disabilities.</b></p>

## SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

<p><b>S2.8</b></p>	<p>Is there a significant level of second home or holiday home ownership locally or in particular areas? (Compare number of second homes/holiday homes with total number of households). This information is available from the Census of Population or from Council Tax records. A second home is where only half the council tax is paid – full council tax is paid at another address.</p> <p>Identify if there is a high number of homes not available to the local population.</p>	<p><b>There are a few holiday homes to research.</b></p>
<p><b>S2.9</b></p>	<p>Is there a high level of vacancy or empty houses? (Compare vacancy levels with the total number of properties). Information on vacancy levels should be obtainable from the District Council Housing Investment Programme or Housing Needs Surveys.</p> <p>* Includes council houses. Identify if there are opportunities to bring existing housing back into use.</p>	<p><b>The stock of empty homes will be published with the launch of the empty homes campaign during 2003. There are no council houses in the district. See earlier comments in S2.3 regarding renewal assistance in 2003.</b></p>
<p><b>S2.10</b></p>	<p>Are there opportunities to bring housing in the town centre, e.g. flats over shops, back into use? (Identify number and location of vacant premises over shops). Information can be obtained by doing a quick on-the-ground survey of the town.</p> <p>Identify opportunities to allow people to live in the town centre.</p>	<p><b>A limited number of flats are over the shops in town, some occupied and other in use as storerooms. Lack of parking is one factor as over the shop is not for the elderly who no longer can drive and really need ground floor units. Conversion of some centrally based office blocks would be a more suitable alternative.</b></p>



<p><b>S2.11</b></p>	<p>Will the planned provision of affordable housing meet local demand? (Compare forecasts of future provision of affordable housing with the waiting lists). Contact District Council and Housing Associations.</p> <p>Identify any under provision of affordable housing.</p>	<p><b>The provision of affordable housing will not meet local demand. The District Council will deliver about 19 subsidised dwellings for the years 2003-2006. They will also launch an empty homes campaign to bring the average of 5% uprated properties back into use where they have been empty for more than 6 months during the period 2003-2006. With about 650 on the housing register with only 139 lettings per year there is obviously a shortfall mostly for affordable reasons.</b></p>
<p><b>S2.12</b></p>	<p>Where there is poor quality housing, is this being addressed by improvement/investment programmes? (Compare the results of the housing condition survey with known housing improvement/investment schemes). Information on housing conditions and housing improvement programmes can be obtained from the District Council.</p> <p>Identify areas of private housing that are not being addressed.</p>	<p><b>The programme for dealing with poor quality housing has been covered in earlier comments.</b></p>

**WORKSHEET S3  
HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

These questions are aimed at assessing the health and public safety aspects of the town and surrounding countryside. Accessibility issues are addressed in Worksheet T2.

There are two main areas where new information may be needed: a fear of crime survey and an audit of the quality of the local environment. The local community should identify areas that have problems in terms of vandalism, unlit areas, litter and graffiti. Guidance on undertaking a fear of crime survey is given in Data Sources and Survey Methods.

**CORE QUESTIONS**

<p><b>S3.1</b></p>	<p>Do the ambulance, police and fire services meet their own response time targets? (Identify areas where the emergency services are experiencing difficulties in meeting their own response times). Contact the emergency services.</p> <p>Identify any shortfalls in services and check whether any future planned changes to service provision will improve response times.</p>	<p><b>Yes (that is 75% calls in up to 8 minutes)</b></p>
<p><b>S3.2</b></p>	<p>Does the number of doctors and dentists meet the appropriate standards? (Identify the number of doctors and dentists compared with total population and compare with threshold levels). Contact the local health authority who will have a register of doctors and dentists in the area and will hold information about the target level.</p> <p>Identify any shortfalls and check whether any future planned changes to service provision will increase/decrease access to doctors and dentists.</p>	<p><b>East Grinstead is well service for NHS dentists, compared to other towns of the same size. There are 4 practices accepting all categories of NHS patient (adult, children, exempt), and another accepting NHS children. There is also a specialist orthodontic practice.</b></p>

<p><b>S3.3</b></p>	<p>Are local mortality rates for heart disease, stroke, cancer, suicide and accidents high? (Compare the local health authority statistics with the regional and national averages). Contact the local health authority who has access to local, regional and national statistics. Identify where rates exceed the averages and ask whether future health service provision is being targeted in these areas.</p>	<p><b>Mid-Sussex is average among the local authorities for coronary heart disease (1997-99). Very high mortality rate for all stroke victims in Mid-Sussex, above the average for the South East, and England and Wales (1997-99). Mortality from all cancers is slightly lower than in other local authorities except Horsham for men, and is the lowest in all local authorities for women (1997-99). Mid-Sussex has a significantly lower level of mortality from accidents than all other authorities.</b></p>
<p><b>S3.4</b></p>	<p>How easy is it for residents to get access to non-emergency hospital services as a user or visitor? (Identify where these services are, the distances involved and whether they can be accessed by public transport). Information can be obtained from the Local Health Authority and transport surveys using mapping and timetables. Identify where hospital services are difficult to access.</p>	<p><b>The maximum wait for a routine out-patient referral is 21 weeks.</b></p>
<p><b>S3.5</b></p>	<p>Are there adequate specialist clinics and out patient clinics available locally e.g. family planning, drugs and drink advice? (Identify what services are available and where). Information can be obtained from the Local Health Authority.  Identify any gaps or under-provision in services</p>	<p><b>Family planning clinics are provided in a range of locations designed to be accessible.</b></p>
<p><b>S3.6</b></p>	<p>Is there adequate social and health care services available in the home (e.g. community nurses, health visitors, home helps etc)? (Identify number of people who are in need of, but are not recipients of, social and health care services). Information can be obtained from the Local Health Authority and County Council social services department.  Identify under provision of services to vulnerable sections of the community.</p>	<p><b>The Locality Implementation Plan for Mid Sussex is being undertaken by a joint Health and Social Services Strategy Group and includes increases in preventive and rehabilitative community support and intensive home care/ home nursing schemes.</b></p> <p><b>Mid Sussex district has the highest amount of residents over 65s who receive <u>more than</u> 10 hours a week home day-care, in the county. The number is slightly above average for over 18-64 year olds, and slightly under the average for those two groups receiving <u>less than</u> 10 hours per week.</b></p>

<p><b>S3.7</b></p>	<p>Is there a high incidence of crime? (Find out the local incidence of crime for the following types of crimes; shop theft, burglaries, personal assault, criminal damage, car theft and theft from vehicles and compare with the regional and national rates). Contact the local police authority who has access to local, regional and national statistics. Identify where there are problems, both in terms of geographical areas and in the types of crime prevalent. Identify if future policing strategies will address these.</p>	<p><b>Violence against the person per 1,000 of the population in Mid-Sussex is the lowest in West Sussex. Robberies increased following the trend for West Sussex. Theft of a motor vehicle is lower than the area average, but theft from a vehicle is higher.</b></p>
<p><b>S3.8</b></p>	<p>Are there any crime prevention measures in place? (Identify areas covered by CCTV, community policing and neighbourhood watch). Contact the District Council and local police authority who should hold all this information.</p> <p>Identify any areas that would benefit from the introduction of crime prevention measures.</p>	<p><b>There is a CCTV scheme running in the town covering most of the town centre, there is a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRPs), and in the district's Crime and Safety Strategy for 2002-2005 they implement new Area Community Safety Groups which will be focused on different safety issues depending on the needs of the communities they cover. Re-organisation of the Police has not changed the number of officers per area.</b></p>
<p><b>S3.9</b></p>	<p>Do background levels of noise, air quality and water quality meet or exceed national standards? (Compare local levels for noise, water and air quality with the national standards). The District Council environmental health department and the Environment Agency undertake regular monitoring and should hold information about background levels and be able to identify any black spots where national standards are exceeded. Identify pollution black spots.</p>	<p><b>Mid-Sussex District Council has completed a review and assessment of local air quality as required by the Environment Act 1995 Part IV, and found "it was not necessary for Mid-Sussex District Council to declare any Air Quality Management Areas" (Mid Sussex Community Profile, 2002).</b></p>

## SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

<p><b>S3.10</b></p>	<p>Do the local health clinics, doctors and dentists operate mobile service units? (Identify what mobile services there are and which areas they cover). Contact local health authority.</p> <p>Identify areas covered by mobile units. Identify if there are any planned improvements to increase the coverage by mobile units.</p>	<p><b>No mobile dentist services.</b></p>
<p><b>S3.11</b></p>	<p>Is the fear of crime significantly worse than actual crime rates? (Compare the results of the fear of crime survey with the crime statistics). Local crime statistics are available from the local police authority. To identify fear of crime in the local community it may be possible to undertake a fear of crime survey.</p> <p>Identify any mismatch and look at where the District Council or local police authority is trying to address safety issues e.g. future plans for CCTV, maintenance of street lighting, increasing number of police officers on the street.</p>	<p><b>“Mid Sussex has one of the lowest rates of recorded crime in the country. Despite being a relatively low crime area residents express serious concerns about crime and disorder in their neighbourhood”. (A Community Safety Strategy for Mid Sussex 2002-2005)</b></p>
<p><b>S3.12</b></p>	<p>Is there visible evidence of vandalism, unlit streets, litter or graffiti? (Identify areas which feel unsafe and/or neglected). The information can be collected by a quick local survey.</p> <p>Identify areas that need improvement.</p>	<p><b>The Community Safety Strategy suggests possible initiatives for the Area Community Safety Groups, such as:</b></p> <p><b>“Reviewing street layout, the position of street furniture and the provision of street lighting to reduce cover for criminal damage/vandalism” and “Extending the use of CCTV”</b></p> <p><b>Also, See EN 1.12</b></p>

**WORKSHEET S4**  
**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS**

These questions are aimed at finding out about the level of community involvement in local decision-making and activity in both the town and surrounding countryside.

If there is not sufficient information available to answer the questions it may be possible to undertake an audit of facilities and find out about the work of community groups in the area. If there is a community liaison or development worker in the area, they will be a useful source of information.

**CORE QUESTIONS**

<p><b>S4.1</b></p>	<p>Do local residents have direct access to the District or County Council in the town? (Identify where the nearest offices are, whether there are Council information points for example in the library, town hall and whether local councillors hold surgeries for local people to attend). Contact the District and County Councils and individual councillors.</p> <p>Identify how easy it is to access information about Council services.</p>	<p><b>Access to the District or County Council is through the Help Point in the library which also serves local Town and Parish Councils. Councillors hold a surgery in the Library monthly.</b></p> <p><b>All information is available from the Help Point by telephone or visit.</b></p>
<p><b>S4.2</b></p>	<p>Are a large number of local people involved in community activities? (Identify the number and range of community groups and their membership levels and compare with total population). Information on population will have been collected for the 'snapshot' and local community groups can provide information about their membership.</p> <p>Identify the level of community involvement.</p>	<p><b>There are about 82 local groups of various interest in the town and also a large demand for volunteers. Most groups find it difficult to get a full quota of volunteers and a number serve more than one or two organisations.</b></p> <p><b>East Grinstead is well served by the community in the shape of local interest and social groups.</b></p>

<p><b>S4.3</b></p>	<p>Do local people have an interest in national and local politics? (Identify the level of voter turnout at local and national elections and compare with the national average). Information is held by the District Council electoral services department.</p> <p>Identify level of local political involvement.</p>	<p><b>Local people in common with elsewhere have some apathy towards politics and mostly only take an interest with major issues which affect them directly.</b></p> <p><b>In Mid Sussex there was a 39% of electorate voting in the 1995 district council elections.</b></p>
<p><b>S4.4</b></p>	<p>Is there somebody who can help develop community involvement? (Identify if there is a dedicated local authority or rural community council officer responsible for co-ordinating or building capacity for community involvement). Contact the District Council or local Rural Community Council.</p> <p>Identify if there is assistance that local communities can draw on.</p>	<p><b>Local authorities employ community development officers and also local organisations act as a focus for town events. One individual in the form of the Town Clerk acts as a catalyst for the general wellbeing of the town.</b></p> <p><b>Local communities can draw on assistance from some officers on the District, town councillors or from umbrella organisations either locally, district or elsewhere.</b></p> <p><b>Key issue - There are about 82 local groups of various sorts in the town, and although there is community development support from various agencies, there is no dedicated body or person tasked with pulling together community efforts and developing capacity</b></p>
<p><b>S4.5</b></p>	<p>Have community groups been influential in developing policies or strategies? (Identify where local people have been involved in preparing Village Design Statements, Supplementary Planning Guidance, or delivering local services). Contact the District Council and local community groups.</p> <p>Identify which groups or individuals have been involved in successful community based initiatives and the level of experience the community has of being involved in the local decision-making process.</p>	<p><b>Local groups have not been involved in local strategies which is not to say that they would not if approached.</b></p> <p><b>The town council was responsible for delivering the Chequer Mead Centre.</b></p> <p><b>Community Groups are now starting to get involved in a new Local Strategic Partnership which is being formed, and a “Community Plan” which is under preparation for the wider area of Mid Sussex.</b></p>

## SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

<p><b>S4.6</b></p>	<p>Is the local community well represented on committees? (Identify where there are local community representatives present on partnership committees, council committees or sub-committees).</p> <p>Identify where community representation is already successfully deployed.</p>	<p><b>The town council has representatives on most major local communities or trusts.</b></p> <p><b>Community representation is deployed on CVS, CAB, Age Concern, Chamber of Commerce, Furnihelp, Access Group, Chequer Mead Theatre, East Court Steering Group, Careers Group, Pensioners Assoc, Christmas Lights, Christmas Shopping Day, Police Community Forum, Wallis Centre Management, Churches Together, East Grinstead in Bloom.</b></p>
<p><b>S4.7</b></p>	<p>Are there any active neighborhood forums, residents or tenants associations? Contact the District Council, County Council and Local Housing Associations.</p> <p>Identify the level of community involvement in managing decisions about the management of their own environment.</p>	<p><b>There are a number of residents assoc. such as the High Street, Imberhorne Residents, and obviously others which we have not yet researched.</b></p> <p><b>The community have very little involvement in managing their environment.</b></p>
<p><b>S4.8</b></p>	<p>Have local people had the experience of being actively involved in community development? (Identify whether the local authority or a public service provider has undertaken a community consultation programme in the last three years). The District Council will know what consultation programmes they have run.</p> <p>Identify the level of experience people have of being involved in local decision-making.</p>	<p><b>This is the first exercise which has asked the local community to help with an in-depth study of the town.</b></p> <p><b>The level of experience is difficult to quantify, there must be some which will emerge from Health Check.</b></p>



**WORKSHEET S5  
SPORT, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACE**

These questions are aimed at finding out the basic data on the use and quality of sport and leisure facilities and open space, in both the town and the surrounding countryside.

There are two possible areas of new data collection that could provide useful: surveys of people who use sports and leisure facilities and an open space character assessment. Members of the community can be involved in undertaking attitude surveys to find out what people like best or dislike most about an area of open space and whether sports and leisure facilities are of a high quality and meet local demands, for example. Sport and leisure clubs will be an important source of information and local schools, youth groups or the Groundwork Trust, for example, might be interested in undertaking a survey of what people like/dislike about an area of open space. Guidance on undertaking open space character assessments is given in Data Sources and Survey Methods.

**CORE QUESTIONS**

<p><b>S5.2</b></p>	<p>Is there any unmet demand for specific sports or leisure facilities? (Use results of the user surveys and attitude surveys to highlight problems). Individual sport group and facilities' managers will have a good idea of whether current facilities meet needs.</p> <p>Identify any shortfalls and check whether any future planned changes will increase/decrease provision of these.</p>	<p><b>The town is definitely lacking sufficient high quality indoor sports halls / facilities. This is certainly affecting school clubs and local clubs such as Basketball groups.</b></p> <p><b>With continually wet winters, the town would also benefit from an all weather synthetic facility, which could be used for football and rugby training for example.</b></p> <p><b>Another area in which East Grinstead fails to meet demand relates to adequate sporting opportunities for disabled people. Despite the fact that facilities such as the Imberhorne based Athletics track, the rugby club and the Sports club are geared up to facilitate people with disabilities, little is actively done to help them pursue their interests. Better facilities, greater levels of transport and more sports specific clubs would help address this shortfall.</b></p> <p><b>It has been suggested that the town would also benefit from another public swimming pool or an extension to the existing one.</b></p>
<p><b>S5.3</b></p>	<p>Are local open spaces of a high quality? (Identify where the areas of open space are and find out what people like about the areas of open space, which are the most popular and attractive, how well used are they and what facilities they contain). Use the results of the open space character assessment.</p> <p>Identify areas for improvement and areas of value/quality that require continued maintenance and or protection.</p>	<p><b>See EN 2.2</b></p>

<p><b>S5.4</b></p>	<p>Are there any known threats of loss of open space or closure of facilities due to either development proposals or reduction in budgets? (Identify any facilities or areas of open space under threat). Look at development proposals in the Local Plan, current planning applications and contact private sector sports and leisure providers and the District Council to determine their future plans.</p> <p>Identify future threats to sports and leisure facilities and provision of local open space.</p>	<p><b>The Local Plan specifically states that it will protect existing areas of open space in the town.</b></p>
<p><b>S5.5</b></p>	<p>Are there adequate opportunities to pursue outdoor sporting activities? (Identify where people can go walking, horse riding, hire bikes, go rock climbing or use outdoor activity centres). Most of this information will be local knowledge or alternative sources are the Yellow Pages or Local Tourist Board. Rights of way information is held by the County Council.</p> <p>Identify any shortfalls in facilities.</p>	<p><b>Despite the fact that there are a variety of opportunities for the residents of East Grinstead to pursue outdoor sporting activities, it would be inaccurate to say that improvements or additions would not still be of benefit to the town (i.e to facilitate social regeneration and tourism).</b></p> <p><b>Amongst the Outdoor facilities include:</b></p> <p><b>Deers Leap Park at Saint Hill, which offers a brilliant opportunity for people to hire and ride mountain bikes on a specially designed track or on offsite routes. The park also offers safe and varied walks and opportunities for orienteering.</b></p> <p><b>Hindleap Warren and Blacklands Farm also offer great outdoor sporting activities, such as climbing, abseiling, archery and kayaking.</b></p> <p><b>There are also areas to go horse riding on such as the Worth Way and on designated tracks around the Forest.</b></p> <p><b>In order to help meet demands of the young in the area of outdoor pursuits, MSDC built specially designed skate ramps at East Court and King Georges field. Devised by the young people, they are frequently in use for bladers, skate boarders and BMX riders.</b></p>
<p><b>S5.6</b></p>	<p>Do many people have to travel outside the town to take part in certain sports? (Location at where sports groups are based). Local sports groups will know this information.</p> <p>Identify which sporting activities are not catered for in the town.</p>	<p><b>Generally, most 'mainstream' clubs are able to pursue their sporting activities in and around the town.</b></p> <p><b>However, one example where athletes have had to travel out of East Grinstead to receive the required coaching, refers to elite disabled athletes. Trips down to Horsham and Brighton were endured to ensure their training needs were met. The completion of the Imberhorne athletics project should now mean that the town has the facility, but we still need the expertise. It is also known that Basketball clubs are struggling to comply with all of their fixtures due to constraints on available court time as a result of insufficient high standard indoor facilities.</b></p>

## SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

<p><b>S5.7</b></p>	<p>What proportion of the eligible local population belongs to a sports or leisure club? (Compare membership of sports groups with the total population in appropriate age groups of the area). Contact local sports clubs and sport and leisure facilities' managers.</p> <p>Identify the level of community involvement in sport and leisure activities.</p>	<p><b>As an estimate the figure would probably not exceed more than 15-20%.</b></p> <p><b>This is only an estimate. I will try and obtain a more accurate figure once I've had an opportunity to extract the membership figures from the relevant and more prominent clubs.</b></p>
<p><b>S5.8</b></p>	<p>Are there any residential areas which are over 400 metres from an area of open space? (Identify residential areas that are not close to areas of open space). Open space is usually shown on the Local Plan proposals map and this can be used to measure distances to residential areas. Alternatively, the District Council may have undertaken an Open Space Assessment. Identify residential areas which do not have easy access to open space.</p>	<p><b>The town is surrounded by countryside and has several meadows and parks within the town, so it is unlikely that any residential areas are far from an area of open space.</b></p>
<p><b>S5.9</b></p>	<p>Does the provision of open space meet the National Playing Fields Association Standard of 2.4 hectares per 1000 population? (Compare area of formally designated open space with the NPFA standard). The District Council should have information about open space in the town and whether it meets the national standard. Identify any shortfall in provision.</p>	<p><b>“Outdoor Playing Space - The Council has adopted the NPFA minimum standards for the provision of outdoor playing space and is committed to meeting this provision as far as is practicable. In East Grinstead there is a variety of open space provision including formal sports grounds and playing fields, children's casual play areas and equipped children's playgrounds. Currently 70% of the NPFA standard for outdoor playing space is met at East Grinstead. However, this figure masks wide variations in the level of provision of different types of open space and its location within the town. For example 88% of the NPFA requirement for the provision of children's playgrounds and casual space is satisfied, but only 62% of the standard for formal sports provision. Also, the provision of such playing space varies between wards within the town..” (Mid Sussex Local Plan)</b></p> <p><b>These figures are derived from the District Council's detailed survey of outdoor playing space carried out in 2000.</b></p>

		<p><b><u>“Children's Playspace</u></b>  As indicated above, under the NPFA standard for East Grinstead 88% of the required provision is met, although there are local variations within the town. Three sites are identified for equipped children's playspace - two on the Estcots estate and one at Sackville Gardens. No other sites are allocated at this stage but the Council will continue to investigate the feasibility of further provision, having regard to the location and suitability of available sites, in order to secure as wide a distribution of outdoor playing space as possible within the built up area.  Land for children's equipped outdoor playing space is identified at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Estcots Estate, off Court Crescent;</li> <li>◆ Estcots Estate, off Estcots Drive; and</li> <li>◆ Sackville Gardens.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Sports Provision</u></b>  There is currently provision for a range of formal sporting activities in and around East Grinstead. These include, for example, extensive playing fields at East Court and King George's Field, and provision for cricket, rugby and hockey, including a synthetic pitch, at Saint Hill to the southwest of the town. However, the minimum NPFA standard is not met at East Grinstead and research conducted by the Council in the production of the Mid Sussex Playing Pitch Strategy has confirmed a shortfall in playing pitches in the area. Investigations will continue in an attempt to address this shortfall."  (From Mid Sussex Local Plan)</p>
<p><b>S5.10</b></p>	<p>Which villages have village greens and/or recreation grounds? (Identify villages that do not have communal areas of open space). Most of this information will be local knowledge or an alternative source such as the Parish Council.</p> <p>Identify any shortfalls in access to open space.</p>	<p>Nearly all the villages in the East Grinstead area have at least a village green or recreation area, if not both and additional facilities.</p>

**WORKSHEET S6  
CULTURE AND HERITAGE**

These questions are aimed at finding out about the breadth of cultural facilities and activities taking place in the town and surrounding. It may prove useful to map some of the answers.

If there is not sufficient information available to answer the questions, an audit of facilities and the numbers and types of community groups will prove useful. In addition to the physical audit, members of the community can be involved - through attitude surveys - in finding out whether current facilities are of a high quality and meet local demand. Local arts and amenity groups will be an important source of information.

**CORE QUESTIONS**

<p><b>S6.1</b></p>	<p>Does the town have an adequate range of cultural facilities e.g. theatre, cinema, art gallery, museum or library? (Identify where these are available. If not in the town itself, then where is the nearest located). Most of this information will be local knowledge but the Yellow Pages is an alternative source.</p> <p>Identify any obvious shortfalls or facilities.</p>	<p><b>Theatre 340 seats</b></p> <p><b>3 x Function rooms.</b></p> <p><b>The King Street cinema has <i>two</i> screens, showing a variety of films. A night-club and a Weatherspoons Pub/restaurant are also on these premises.</b></p> <p><b>The library is in West Street opposite a MSDC car park and is open 55 hours a week, including on four evenings until 7.30pm and on Saturdays from 9.30 - 5.00pm. The services are on two floors and there is lift access.</b></p> <p><b>The library has a stock of 71,105 items for loan and reference and 12 computers for free public internet access. It has a registered membership of 28,934(70% of target population of 41,520) and was visited by 325,728 people in 2000-2001</b></p> <p><b>It has a meetings room, which can house up to 30 people and is used by groups e.g. U3A (University of the Third age) and also for lectures and talks for adults and children.</b></p> <p><b>The library also houses:</b></p> <p><b><u>Help Point</u></b> The Help Point provides information on all Town, District and County Council services, as well as information on National Health Trusts.</p> <p><b><u>Tourist Information</u></b> Provides information to both visitors and members of the local community</p> <p><b><u>Careers Office</u>; MSDC Housing Benefit and Housing Advice Surgeries; Council for Voluntary Service-</b></p> <p><b><u>Furnihelp and Access Group</u>; <u>East Grinstead Volunteer centre</u> and <u>The Registrar</u> (by appointment)</b></p> <p><b><u>Local Councillors also hold surgeries</u> twice a month at the Library</b></p> <p><b>At present the town museum housed at East Court and staffed by volunteers the Museum is open two afternoons a week. It is hoped to move the museum to a new building in the centre of the town when funds permit.</b></p>
--------------------	--	--

		<p>Three public halls.</p> <p>The Chequer Mead Theatre and Arts Centre offers a wide range of concerts, shows and events, both professional and amateur, for all age groups. A number of local arts groups meet and rehearse at the centre and there are facilities for art exhibitions and conferences. Films are sometimes also shown at Chequer Mead. The centre is situated in De la Warr Road, with adequate parking and excellent facilities for those with disabilities. Chequer Mead has an energetic "Friends" organisation .</p> <p><b>Lack of revenue funding for the core arts provision</b></p>
<b>S6.2</b>	<p>Are there regular events which have the potential to draw the whole community together? (Identify the number and type of events e.g. fairs, festivals, carnivals). This information should be local knowledge.</p> <p>Identify opportunities for local people to come together or whether there is a need to develop such an event.</p>	<p><b>East Grinstead Summer Extravaganza organised by the Rotary Club</b></p> <p><b>Christmas Sunday shopping day.</b></p> <p><b>Some doubts about the future of the EGE. Development of future large scale community events should be considered.</b></p>
<b>S6.3</b>	<p>Does the local community have a mechanism to report and comment on local events and issues? (Identify whether there is a local paper, radio station or TV station and where they are based). This information should be local knowledge.</p> <p>Identify opportunities for local people to have a voice or whether there is a need to develop such a mechanism.</p>	<p><b>Two local papers in East Grinstead:</b></p> <p><b><u>East Grinstead Courier</u></b>  <b>Courier Printing and Publishing Co. Local address: 37 High Street East Grinstead RH19 3AF</b></p> <p><b><u>East Grinstead Observer</u></b>  <b>(part of East Surrey and Sussex Newspapers) Local address: 182 London Road, East Grinstead RH19 IAD</b></p> <p><b>Local Radio – Mercury Radio based in Crawley (8 miles), and BBC Southern Counties Radio</b></p> <p><b>TV – Meridian Carlton</b></p> <p><b>Consideration is being given to establishing a user group at the local theatre Chequer Mead. Chequer Mead has a system in place for getting feedback from users</b></p>

<p><b>S6.4</b></p>	<p>Do town and rural communities have adequate community venues? (Identify where there are community centres, village halls and other venues - both in the town and surrounding villages where local people can come together. Compare the number of venues available in the town and surrounding villages). This information should be local knowledge or contact the Town and Parish Councils.</p> <p>Identify whether the quantity and quality of these facilities is sufficient.</p>	<p><b>There are 8 community venues for hire in East Grinstead, plus a further 8 church halls</b></p> <p><b>Village venues : Ashurstwood-4; Hammerwood- 1; West Hoathly- 1; Felbridge- 1; Forest Row- 3; Crawley Down - 1; Turners Hill -1; Lingfield - 3;</b>  <b>(This does not include school premises, which are for hire)</b></p> <p><b>There is great demand for all these venues. There is a strong case for additional facilities at Chequer Mead. The Quality of almost all the facilities is reasonable to very good.</b></p>
<p><b>S6.5</b></p>	<p>Does the area have any strong cultural associations such as famous people, events or literary links or any famous products? (Identify any cultural or historic links e.g. Hawarth in Yorkshire is associated with the Brontes, Bridgwater in Somerset is famous for its carnival and processions and Melton Mowbray is known for its pork pies). This should be local knowledge. In addition, local history groups will have a lot of useful information.</p> <p>Identify any cultural associations that make the area distinctive.</p>	<p><b>Dame Beryl Gray</b>  <b>Andy Ripley</b>  <b>Richard Schabel</b>  <b>Duncan Goodhew</b>  <b>David Sheppard</b></p>
<p><b>S6.6</b></p>	<p>Are there strong historic associations with the area? (Identify any important battles that might have taken place, important historic ruins and monuments, historic houses and parkland). Information on national historic sites can be obtained from English Heritage. In addition, the local history society will have a lot of useful information.</p> <p>Identify any strong historic associations with the area.</p>	<p><b>East Grinstead Meridian</b>  <b>East Court Mansion &amp; Park</b>  <b>WWII associations: Battle of Britain pilots/Guinea Pig Club/Sackville College</b>  <b>/Sir Archibald McIndoe/John Mason Neale</b>  <b>St Swithuns Church: East Grinstead Martyrs</b>  <b>Historic High Street: Toll House/Old Lock Up/Middle Row</b></p>

## SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

<p><b>S6.7</b></p>	<p>What proportion of the local population is involved in an arts-based community group? (Compare number of people involved in arts groups with the total population). Contact local arts groups.</p> <p>Identify the level of community involvement in the arts.</p>	<p><b>Not possible to quantify proportion of local population involved in arts based community groups from available data. However, from the local societies' database maintained by the library, there are 49 arts groups divided as follows:</b></p> <p><b>Art/Crafts 8/Dance 12/Drama 5/Literary1/Music 15/Photography 3/Children 5</b>  <b>In addition there are a wide variety of arts classes held at the Learning Centre -- 47 in total</b></p> <p><b>Art                    11( at different levels)</b>  <b>Craft                    21</b></p> <p><b>Dance                    8</b>  <b>Photography    6</b></p> <p><b>East Grinstead U3A has a variety of study groups including 15, which would be classed as art groups.</b></p>
<p><b>S6.8</b></p>	<p>Do facilities for arts and cultural activities meet the demand of the local arts groups? (Identify where local groups find it difficult to find adequate accommodation.) A survey of these groups may be.</p>	<p><b>Yes – As far as can be ascertained the facilities are adequate however funding for maintenance of the facilities remains a major issue.</b></p> <p><b>No surveys carried out but given the existing numbers of groups, it would appear that there are large numbers of people engaged in arts activities, at least in the town. No data available for the villages.</b></p>



## **ECONOMIC WORKSHEETS**

This section contains the following worksheets:

**WORKSHEET EC1 –  
EMPLOYMENT**

**WORKSHEET EC2 –  
RETAIL AND TOWN CENTRE SERVICES**

**WORKSHEET EC3 –  
TRAINING AND EDUCATION**

**WORKSHEET EC4 –  
COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY NEEDS**

**WORKSHEET EC5 -  
TOURISM AND VISITOR SERVICES –**

**WORKSHEET EC6 –  
BUSINESS SUPPORT**

These should be answered along with the worksheets in the environment, social and transport sections. Advice on answering the worksheets is provided in the Healthcheck Handbook.

Contact details for all national and regional organisations mentioned in these worksheets can be found in the Directory of Contacts.

## WORKSHEET EC1- EMPLOYMENT

These questions help find out the basic data required to understand the local employment situation. This assessment and particularly the baseline data collected will be important for many of the other assessments of aspects of the economy contained in Worksheets EC2 to EC6.

The main sources of information which help answer the questions are the Census of Population, Annual Employment Survey and the unemployment data produced by the Office for National Statistics and DfEE. Apart from published data, a survey of local employers may also be useful.

### CORE QUESTIONS

<p><b>EC1.1</b></p>	<p>Are local unemployment rates high? (Compare local rates with regional and national averages for male and female and youth unemployment). The information should be in the Annual Employment Survey or NOMIS.</p> <p>Identify if unemployment is a significant issue locally.</p>	<p><b>EG unemployment rates are very low- under 1%. In January 2002 the rate for EG was 0.79%. This compares to rates for Mid Sussex of 1%, West Sussex 1.8%, SE 2.6% and GB 3.3%.</b></p> <p><b>Like the rate for Mid Sussex as a whole, unemployment in EG has been consistently below County, regional and national rates.</b></p> <p><b>Unemployment is not a significant issue locally- in fact more likely to be specific skills / labour shortage that is an issue.</b></p>								
<p><b>EC1.2</b></p>	<p>Has unemployment fallen or risen in recent years? (Compare to regional and national averages). The information should be in the Annual Employment Survey or NOMIS.</p> <p>Identify if there are any specific trends in unemployment in the local area.</p>	<p><b>Past EG unemployment rates- April 1995 3.4%; April 1996 3.3%; April 1998 1.5%; April 2001 0.5%. Therefore generally falling, in line with District, regional and national trends.</b></p> <p><b>Not aware of any specific trends in local area.</b></p>								
<p><b>EC1.3</b></p>	<p>What are the labour market participation rates? (Work out the ratio of employed people as a percentage of the total working age population and the number of working women compared to working men. Compare with regional and national averages). The information can be found in the Census of Population.</p> <p>This will help identify if there is hidden unemployment locally.</p>	<p><b>Percent economically active (1991 Census)</b></p> <table data-bbox="994 954 1684 1075"> <tr> <td><b>EG-</b></td> <td><b>Total 68% Male 80% Female 58%</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Mid Sussex</b></td> <td><b>Total 65% Male 77% Female 53%</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>South East</b></td> <td><b>Total 63% Male 76% Female 51%</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>GB</b></td> <td><b>Total 61% Male 73% Female 50%</b></td> </tr> </table> <p><b>The EG activity rate is higher than in the District, region and GB as a whole- again reinforces absence of unemployment as an issue</b></p>	<b>EG-</b>	<b>Total 68% Male 80% Female 58%</b>	<b>Mid Sussex</b>	<b>Total 65% Male 77% Female 53%</b>	<b>South East</b>	<b>Total 63% Male 76% Female 51%</b>	<b>GB</b>	<b>Total 61% Male 73% Female 50%</b>
<b>EG-</b>	<b>Total 68% Male 80% Female 58%</b>									
<b>Mid Sussex</b>	<b>Total 65% Male 77% Female 53%</b>									
<b>South East</b>	<b>Total 63% Male 76% Female 51%</b>									
<b>GB</b>	<b>Total 61% Male 73% Female 50%</b>									

<p><b>EC1.4</b></p>	<p>What are average household earnings? (Compare average earnings per household with the regional and national average). The information can be found in the New Earnings Survey, published by the Office for National Statistics, or from surveys by the local authority.</p> <p>Identify relative levels of prosperity and the number of households below the average income level as a percentage of total households.</p>	<p><b>Gross weekly earnings – persons not households (2002)</b></p> <p><b>GB 386</b> <b>South East 412</b> <b>The figure for Mid Sussex is less and that for EG considerably higher according to the New Earnings Survey. However, it says that these figures are not totally reliable and also should not be revealed to a third party!</b></p> <p><b>Second section- no data found.</b></p>
<p><b>EC1.5</b></p>	<p>What proportion of the unemployed have been unemployed for over 6 months or one year and what sectors of the population are most represented by age/gender? (Compare to regional and national averages). The information can be obtained through NOMIS.</p> <p>Identify if there are any recent trends in long term unemployment.</p>	<p><b>Number of unemployed in EG very low- see above. Of these, the rate of unemployed over 6 months (29%) is higher than Mid Sussex (21%) similar to the SE (28%) and lower than GB (33%).</b> <b>For unemployment over 12 months the EG rate (9%) is higher than for Mid Sussex (7%), but lower than the region (12%) and GB (16%).</b> <b>Long term unemployment appears to affect females more than males, although the actual figures are very low indeed and do not represent a major issue.</b> <b>There appear to be no important trends in long term unemployment in EG</b></p>
<p><b>EC1.6</b></p>	<p>What proportion of residents in employment commute elsewhere to work? (Compare with averages for other market towns). The information should be in the Census of Population or more recent local surveys.</p> <p>Identify if the town is a dormitory town or has a significant employment role</p>	<p><b>In EG, 37% of those in employment work in the town. This is higher than in Haywards heath- 33% and Burgess Hill- 30%. 18% work in London, 15% in the rest of the south east; and 10% at Crawley Gatwick.</b> <b>Of those working in EG, 47% live in the town- compared to 42% in HH and 43% in BH</b></p> <p><b>Therefore in Mid Sussex terms it has less of a dormitory role than the others, although the figures are fairly close.</b></p>
<p><b>EC1.7</b></p>	<p>Is the local economy particularly dependent on specific industry sectors? (Compare employment rates in specific industrial sectors with regional and national averages). The information can be found in the Census of Population or the Annual Employment Survey.</p> <p>Identify strengths and weaknesses in the local economy.</p>	<p><b>NO- a reasonably wide spread of sectors. 26% in "other services"; 20% in distribution and catering; 18% in banking and finance; and 13% in manufacturing.</b> <b>This is similar to the pattern in Mid Sussex as a whole (20% in banking and finance). But there is a higher proportion in banking and finance than in the SE (15%) and GB (12%).</b> <b>Manufacturing is lower than in the SE (15%) and in GB (18%).</b> <b>The relative diversity of EG is a strength.</b></p>

<p><b>EC1.8</b></p>	<p>Is the local economy dependent on a small number of large employers? (Identify local employers who employ over 100 people and proportion of local workforce employed by them). The information can be found in either a local survey of businesses or the Labour Force Survey.</p> <p>Identify reliance of the local economy on a few large employers</p>	<p><b>No. See 1.7 above..</b> <b>Caravan Club; Deutsch Ltd; Reed Business Information Ltd; Rentokil Ltd; Sussex Pharmaceuticals; VG Scientific and VG Semicon are believed to employ 100+</b></p> <p><b>There are 20 firms in East Grinstead employing more than 100 people.</b> <b>Source Dun &amp; Bradstreet Business Register Sussex 2002</b></p> <p><b>No such reliance</b></p>
<p><b>EC1.9</b></p>	<p>Is the number of jobs available locally increasing or decreasing? (Identify specific business closures in the last three years). The information maybe found in the Annual Employment Survey or from surveys of local businesses.</p> <p>Identify how strong the local economy is.</p>	<p><b>No data</b></p>
<p><b>EC1.10</b></p>	<p>What are the rates of business start ups and failures? (Compare to regional and national average and over a five year time period to identify trends). The information can be found in the Customs and Excise VAT Registration. The local Business Link or Small Business Service may already have collated this information.</p> <p>Identify how dynamic the local economy is.</p>	<p><b>No data found</b></p>

## SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

<p><b>EC1.11</b></p>	<p>What opportunities are there for new employment from the expansion of existing local firms? (Find out how many local firms are planning to expand). The information can be obtained either from surveying local firms or enquiries to the Small Business Service.</p> <p>Assess business confidence and the scope for growth in jobs.</p>	<p><b>Some vacant sites and premises available of all types and uses. Some limited local plan allocations. Local Plan currently being updated with further review due to start shortly to go up to 2016. Draft Structure Plan identifies REG as a strategic location for future housing development. If accepted this would need to be accompanied by complementary employment growth.</b></p> <p><b>This will be for local employers to address</b></p>
<p><b>EC1.12</b></p>	<p>What economic development/inward investment grants are available? (Identify types of funding, the eligibility criteria for funding, and the sources and amounts available). This information can be obtained from the local Small Business Service, District Council economic development department and the Regional Development Agency.</p> <p>Identify the forms of assistance available to existing and new local businesses.</p>	<p><b>Very few as far as aware. Area not eligible for most grants from government or regions. May be some finance available for small or start up businesses.</b></p>

**WORKSHEET EC2  
RETAIL AND TOWN CENTRE SERVICES**

These questions are aimed at finding out the basic data required to evaluate the retail and town centre services available. There may not be reliable information on size of shops or their turnover. Guidance on how to undertake a shopping survey is given in Data Sources and Survey Methods.

**CORE QUESTIONS**

<p><b>EC2.1</b></p>	<p>How much of the local shopping provision is in the town centre, out-of-town centre or in the villages? (Compare number and total floorspace in the various locations). The information may be available from the district council if they have undertaken a retail study, GOAD Experian town centre surveys or your own surveys.</p> <p>Identify in particular out of town supermarkets and other shops.</p>	<p><b>Great majority of retail space is in town center or on edge of town center. The Local Plan defines a town center shopping policy area and almost all the town's provision is within that. The main exceptions are Sainsburys and Homebase- edge of center- and a small number of local shopping parades.</b></p> <p><b>There is no significant out of town shopping- planning policy will prevent this.</b></p> <p><b>There is limited provision in surrounding villages, many of whom will look to EG for lower level shopping needs.</b></p>
<p><b>EC2.2</b></p>	<p>What type of shops and services are there in the town centre? (The number of each shop/services e.g. bank, chemist; butchers; antique; clothes; shoes; baker; grocer; supermarket; hardware and general stores (add to the list as appropriate), available in both the town and the surrounding villages, and their percentage of the total shops). The information can be obtained from GOAD Experian town centre surveys, any District Council retail study or your own surveys.</p> <p>Identify particular shops and services which attract visitors and shoppers from outside the town and any obvious gaps or shortages in provision.</p>	<p><b>Total floorspace in EG is 44,462 sq m of which 16% is convenience, 51% comparison, 19% services and 14% vacant (1998 Goad Experian). See Hillier Parker study 1999.</b></p> <p><b>Breakdown of shop types from 1999 shopfront survey (MSDC) frontage only, not floorspace.</b></p> <p><b>Number of shops surveyed</b>  <b>A1 151 A2 37 A3 28 Total 216</b></p> <p><b>Total shopping frontage 1625.9 m .</b>  <b>Of this- A1 66.3%. A2 13.9% A3 11.1% B1a 1% Vacant A1 6.6% Vacant A2 1.3%</b>  <b>This seems a reasonably balanced provision of these various uses. No signs of over reliance on one sector or type of frontage, although there are concentrations in some areas. e.g A3 uses in High Street, and this has increased further since then. The main shopping frontage is London Road, protected by local plan policies.</b></p> <p><b>Independent comparison and specialist retailers are an attraction, especially in the High Street. Surveys have identified a demand for "higher quality" shops, more entertainment / eating places, Marks and Spencer, bhs etc. Town has good representation by service sector- banks etc</b></p>

<p><b>EC2.3</b></p>	<p>Has retail floorspace in the town centre been lost in the last five years? (Compare historical data on comparison and convenience retail and commercial floorspace in the town centre and compare with any out-of-town developments). The information may be available from the District Council in the form of Retail Capacity Studies and Retail Impact Assessments of specific developments.</p> <p>Identify whether the town centre has become a less attractive location for retail development.</p>	<p><b>No. There has been no net movement to out of town or other locations. There has been a take up of vacant units since the 1999 studies. Vacant units not seen as an issue in 1999.</b></p> <p><b>There is concern at numbers shopping elsewhere- Crawley and T Wells for example. Town center enhancements designed to improve attractiveness of centre for shopping.</b></p>
	<p>Is there a provision market, livestock market, farm shops or farmers' market? (The number of shops and the regularity of markets). Information on shops and markets can be obtained from the National Farmers Union, the National Association of Farmers' Markets or from local survey.</p> <p>Identify the number and frequency of markets and the number of outlets for local produce.</p>	<p><b>There is a farmers market (20 stalls approx) on the first Thursday each month; and a smaller farmers market (9 stalls approx) in Queens Walk on the third Friday each month.</b></p> <p><b>Local produce outlets ?? Chamber of Commerce aware?</b></p>
<p><b>EC2.5</b></p>	<p>Is there a general market? (Identify the frequency of markets and numbers of traders/stalls and any historic data). Information can be obtained from the market operator, often the District Council or from the National Association of British Market Authorities.</p> <p>Identify if the market is a thriving concern.</p>	<p><b>There is a very small general market (4 stalls?) in Railway Approach on Saturdays.</b></p> <p><b>The market has declined considerably in recent years.</b></p>
<p><b>EC2.6</b></p>	<p>How many shops are vacant in the town centre and how many have been vacant for more than two years? (Compare with historic trends and with the regional and national vacancy rates). Information can be obtained from GOAD Experian town centre surveys, District Council's Retail Capacity Study or through local survey.</p> <p>If there are significant vacancies, find out why the vacant shops are not being reopened.</p>	<p><b>More research needed. Not a high vacancy rate now or in the past- see above</b></p>

<p><b>EC2.7</b></p>	<p>How many new shops in the centre have opened in the last three years, or have had major refits? (Identify new and improved shopping provision). Information can be obtained from GOAD Experian town centre surveys, District Council's Retail Capacity Study or through local survey.</p> <p>Assess retailer confidence in the town centre.</p>	<p><b>More research needed.</b></p> <p><b>Retailer confidence?</b></p>
<p><b>EC2.8</b></p>	<p>Are rents for retail premises stable or increasing? (Compare rents over time and with competing centres, if appropriate). Information can be obtained from the Valuation Office, the District Council and through local property agents.</p> <p>Assess rent levels for the main shops and whether the increase reflects buoyant demand.</p>	<p><b>In 1999 the Hillier Parker study identified rising rental values since 1994- an increase of 19% in 4 years. Rental values (prime zone A) in 1998 were higher in EG than in Burgess Hill and Haywards Heath, and only slightly below Horsham. They were well below Crawley and T Wells but these are higher order shopping centers.</b></p> <p><b>If 1992 is 100, retail rental values in EG have increased to 113 in 1996 and 119 in 1998.</b></p> <p><b>More recent figures are required.</b></p>
<p><b>EC2.9</b></p>	<p>Are local retailers confident about future trading? (Identify where local shop keepers plan to expand or move to new premises or are concerned about particular constraints on future business). Information can be obtained from a survey of local shops and services.</p> <p>Assess local confidence about the town's role as a shopping destination.</p>	<p><b>For local traders to answer.</b></p>



## SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

<p><b>EC2.10</b></p>	<p>Is the town centre promoted as a shopping destination in any brochures or other publicity material? Information can be obtained from the Chamber of Commerce, District Council or by asking local shopkeepers.</p> <p>Identify whether the town is being actively promoted.</p>	<p><b>There have been local shopping promotion leaflets in the past when there was a town center manger. More recent leaflets promote EG as a whole but include shopping- esp the independent specialist shops as a feature.</b></p> <p><b>The completion of the town centre enhancement scheme will afford new opportunities for promotion.</b></p>
<p><b>EC2.11</b></p>	<p>Is there commercial demand for additional retail floorspace? (Registered interest, by retailers and their anticipated floorspace requirements). The data may be available from Property Intelligence plc and from local property agents.</p> <p>Identify any demand for expanding retail provision.</p>	<p><b>In 1998 Hillier Parker identified 14 retailers with requirements in EG. These were mostly for small units. Six were for service providers inc restaurants / pubs; six were for comparison goods retailers and two from convenience. This may have changed since- more research from local agents needed.</b></p>
<p><b>EC2.12</b></p>	<p>Is the local provision and/or livestock market vulnerable to closure? (Compare historic data on number of stalls, turnover levels, throughput, employment data to assess vulnerability to closure). Information can be obtained from the National Farmers Union, the District Council and market owners and operators.</p> <p>Identifying any potential threat to the market and what those threats are.</p>	<p><b>No livestock market. Farmers market steady but smaller than at beginning. New options are being investigated.</b></p>

**WORKSHEET EC3  
TRAINING AND EDUCATION**

These questions are aimed at finding out the basic data needed to evaluate the quality of training and education available in the local area and what the specific needs are.

Most of the information required for the assessment of education and training needs should be available from published sources. However, a survey of local employers may help in identifying vocational training needs.

**CORE QUESTIONS**

<p><b>EC3.1</b></p>	<p>Do the vocational training courses on offer reflect the needs of local residents and employers? (Compare training areas with local employment opportunities). Information can be obtained from the Learning and Skills Council, local schools and colleges, the Chamber of Commerce and surveys and residents.</p> <p>Identify if there are significant vocational or non-vocational training gaps which could be filled locally.</p>	<p><b>East Grinstead has an excellent Adult Learning Centre managed by Crawley College. Some – ICT, Health and Beauty – vocational activities take place in East Grinstead but most of the F.E. organized programme takes place in Crawley. This does cause access problems that the College has tried to address through discussion with East Grinstead business partners. To make significant progress there does need to be construction/ built environment opportunities in East Grinstead.</b></p> <p><b>Plumpton College in East Sussex does provide a wide range of land based vocational courses. There are transport restrictions for individuals relying on public transport. Independent training providers (data still to be collected)</b></p> <p><b>Like all other parts of West Sussex, Level 3 activities are abundant. Shortages exist for Level 2 post 16 programmes and vocational activities</b></p>
<p><b>EC3.2</b></p>	<p>Are school leavers well qualified? (Number of pupils at aged 16 with five GCSEs at A-C level and number of pupils aged 19 with one or more A Level. Compare with regional and national average). The information may be available from schools, colleges or from the Local Education Authority.</p> <p>Identify the levels of educational achievements being achieved locally.</p>	<p><b>School leavers are generally well qualified with 68% of 16 year olds holding a level 2 qualification rising to XX% of 19 year olds. Post 16 academic education is strong within the two secondary schools with an A level pass rate of 95%+. Pass and staying on rates are higher than county and national figures.</b></p> <p><b>Both secondary schools have been described recently by OfSTED as providing above average standards of education and good value for money.</b></p>
<p><b>EC3.3</b></p>	<p>Is there access to good quality schools in the area? (Look at school league tables and compare with other towns if appropriate). Information can be obtained from the Local Education Authority.</p> <p>Identify if there are issues surrounding the quality of local education</p>	<p><b>Standards are high in Primary schools with good levels of literacy and numeracy on transfer to secondary school. Levels of achievement are higher than county or national norms. The school roll is declining and this does create organizational difficulties.</b></p> <p><b>Recruiting and retaining staff is an issue for secondary and primary schools. Local housing costs are high and many teachers commute in from lower cost areas. Teachers like the area but find it difficult to move from rented to purchased accommodation.</b></p>

<p><b>EC3.4</b></p>	<p>Are there sufficient pre-school places in nurseries and playgroups? (Compare number of available places with the number of pre-school children in the area and take into account any planned changes in the levels of service provision). The information needed can be obtained from the Local Education Authority.</p> <p>Identify any gaps in the provision for pre-school children in towns and surrounding villages</p>	
---------------------	---	--

### SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

<p><b>EC3.5</b></p>	<p>How many internet learning and access points are there within the town and/or villages? (Number of internet points available in the towns and the surrounding villages per head of population). This information should be available from the Library and/or education authority or from survey.</p> <p>Identify whether these are sufficient to meet local needs</p>	<p><b>There are currently 26 pc's available to the public 8 soon to be 12 in the Library, 18 in the Adult learning Centre</b></p>
<p><b>EC3.6</b></p>	<p>Is there adequate provision of non-vocational courses locally? (Find out the types of courses available in the area). The information may be available from adult education centres and from surveys of residents.</p> <p>Identify how easy it is to access a wide range of courses.</p>	<p><b>There is an excellent range of non-vocational programmes. Following the establishment of an Adult Learning Centre, use of the two secondary schools has dropped markedly and so there is considerable space available for community groups.</b></p> <p><b>The Learning Centre is located in the middle of town with good parking available nearby.</b></p>
<p><b>EC3.7</b></p>	<p>Is there a high number of school exclusions? (Identify levels and compare with other towns, if appropriate). Information can be obtained from the Local Education Authority if individual schools.</p> <p>Identify if there is a problem in local schools.</p>	<p><b>Exclusions levels in the East Grinstead schools is low when compared to national and county averages. Cooperation between schools, youth service, police, health service and Education Officers is good. Recruitment difficulties (linked partly to the high cost of living) has prevented Social Services from playing a full part in local partnerships.</b></p> <p><b>Increased vocational pathways would encourage many of the young people at risk of disaffection.</b></p>

**WORKSHEET EC4  
COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY NEEDS**

These questions are aimed at finding out the basic data required to evaluate the commercial property needs in the local area. Housing is dealt with separately in Worksheet S2.

**CORE QUESTIONS**

<p><b>EC4.1</b></p>	<p>How much new commercial or industrial floorspace has been built or let in the last three years? (Identify how much and where new development has taken place). This information may be available from the District Council or local property agents.</p> <p>Identify business confidence in the local area.</p>	<p><b>More research needed on actual building rates. Lettings by commercial agents.</b></p> <p><b>A matter for local businesses.</b></p>
<p><b>EC4.2</b></p>	<p>How much good quality office or industrial floorspace is vacant or on the market? (Identify how much and where vacant commercial property is). This information will be available from local property agents, the District Council and from surveys of local employers.</p> <p>Identify any over-provision of office and industrial units.</p>	<p><b>In October 2002 a total of 7375 sq m of office space and 4260 sq m of industrial floorspace was known to be on the market. This includes various sizes of units, from very small up to 1700 sq m. Much of this is modern reasonable quality floorspace. On the other hand some brand new units have been built for a named user e.g. VG Semicon at the Birches.</b></p> <p><b>The market does appear to be relatively depressed with a number of units on the market for long periods and pressure for their conversion or redevelopment to other uses. There is a suggestion that there may be overprovision of offices in particular</b></p>
<p><b>EC4.3</b></p>	<p>Are there sufficient premises at affordable rents for new small businesses? (Look at number of smaller premises and find out rent levels). This information should be available from the District Council and local property agents.</p> <p>Identify how easy it is for small businesses to find affordable premises.</p>	<p><b>An estate agent indicated that finding tenants for small offices is a big problem, suggesting that there are either not enough small business for the premises, or that the premises are not affordable.</b></p>
<p><b>EC4.4</b></p>	<p>Has there been an increase or decrease in the rents of industrial and commercial property in recent years? (Compare historical data on commercial rents). The data may be available from the District Council Valuation Office or from local property agents. Note increased rents and yields denote greater demand for floorspace.</p>	<p><b>Not known.</b></p>

<p><b>EC4.5</b></p>	<p>Have vacancy levels for commercial properties increased or decreased in recent years? (Compare historical trends of vacancy levels in different age and size of premises). This information can be sourced from the District Council and from local property agents.</p> <p>Identify demand for, and gaps in, the provision of different types of commercial and industrial property by size and age.</p>	<p><b>I would suggest that vacancy levels have risen or at best stayed static.</b></p> <p><b>Suggests a lack of provision and / or demand for good quality units, a depressed property market, constraints acting on EG from commercial viewpoint e.g accessibility to road network, congestion, competition from elsewhere.</b></p>
<p><b>EC4.6</b></p>	<p>Are there any planned expansions of existing commercial and industrial firms? (Identify number of firms with commitments to expand and where they are located). The information may be obtained by talking to local employers, Business Link and the Regional Development Agency.</p> <p>Identify confidence in the local economy</p>	<p><b>Major economic change is likely to depend on the development of Gatwick airport and the South Downs National Park.</b></p>

### SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

<p><b>EC4.7</b></p>	<p>Are there economic development and funding initiatives in place to assist incoming firms and the expansion of local firms? (Identify initiatives and their target audiences). This information can be sourced from the District Council, Small Business Service and the Regional Development Agency.</p> <p>Identify if help is provided to attract investment to the area.</p>	<p><b>However the Regional Economic Strategy for the South East 2002-2012 (SEEDA) does not have East Grinstead under any of its priorities for supported economic development. This means that firms may choose to locate elsewhere where support could be gained</b></p>
---------------------	--	---

## WORKSHEET EC5 TOURISM AND VISITOR SERVICES

These questions are aimed at finding out the basic data required to evaluate the level of tourism activity in the area and an assessment of visitor services and facilities. The provision of sports and leisure facilities is covered in Worksheet S5.

If there is not sufficient information available to answer the questions, an audit of tourist and visitor facilities could be undertaken. The Regional Tourist Board or local tourism officer will be a useful source of help and guidance to help facilitate the local community in collecting and analysing the data. In addition, there may be some merit in undertaking an attitude survey of visitors and assessing the benefits of tourism to the local community. Members of the community can be involved in undertaking attitude surveys to find out what people like best or dislike most about the area, what made them come here, what they think needs improving etc. Guidance on the types of questions would be best sought from the Regional Tourist Board or local authority tourism officer.

Techniques for visitor attitude surveys and gauging the community benefits of tourism are given in Data Sources and Survey Methods.

### CORE QUESTIONS

<p><b>EC5.1</b></p>	<p>What are the main tourist or visitor attractions including festivals and events in the town or nearby? (List the range of attractions tailored to tourists). This information should be available from local knowledge or visitor surveys.</p> <p>Identify what is on offer to tourists.</p>	<p><b>Bluebell Railway, Standen (National Trust) Sackville College, Deers Leap Park Mountain Bike Park Lingfield Park Racecourse, Ashdown Forest, Chequer Mead Theatre and Arts Centre.</b></p>
<p><b>EC5.2</b></p>	<p>How important is tourism related employment to the local economy? (Compare employment rates in tourism related services, such as hotels and catering, with the regional and national averages). This information can be found in the Annual Employment Survey and in local employment surveys carried out by the District or County Council.</p> <p>Identify how reliant the local economy is on tourists and day visitors</p>	<p><b>Tourism providers all report great difficulty recruiting staff especially in the Hotel &amp; Restaurants sector. There are large numbers of overseas employees filling many jobs at present.</b></p> <p><b>Besides a thriving B&amp;B segment of the market, the town also boasts a large number of restaurants and bars as well as nighttime entertainment venues all attracting visitors from outside the town.</b></p>

<p><b>EC5.3</b></p>	<p>What is the range of tourist accommodation available in the area e.g. number of hotel beds by grade, bed and breakfast, youth hostels, caravan and, camping site pitches? (Number of facilities of different types in both the towns and the surrounding villages). This information can be sourced from the District Council, local Tourist Board or from local surveys.</p> <p>Identify the location of the facilities and any potential gaps in provision.</p>	<p><b>There are a total of 1689 bed spaces in the area's hotels. 81 beds in the town's B&amp;B sector with a further 239 beds in the surrounding area. The town also has 4 self catering facilities and there are 3 campsites within the same area.</b></p> <p><b>There is no provision of hostel type accommodation and the demand for accommodation in pubs far exceeds supply. Despite the opening of a Travel Inn at Felbridge, there is still a gap in the market for this type of accommodation. Self Catering accommodation is also in short supply and needs to be increased</b></p>
<p><b>EC5.4</b></p>	<p>How many visitors come to the town or area and how long do they stay? (Identify number of visitors and their length of stay). This information can be found from Visitor Surveys, undertaken by the District Council or Tourist Board.</p> <p>Identify the number of visitors to the area and whether they stay for long periods of time.</p>	<p><b>We would welcome these figures from Mid Sussex District Council. However we should also consider that East Grinstead is surrounded by 4 further District Councils and any statistics held by them may well include figures that impact on East Grinstead.</b></p> <p><b>See above:</b></p>
<p><b>EC5.5</b></p>	<p>How seasonal is the visitor activity? (Compare visitor numbers and employment rates at different times of the year). The information may be in Visitor Surveys conducted by the District Council or Tourist Board.</p> <p>Identify how vulnerable the local economy is to seasonal variations.</p>	<p><b>May to September is the peak period at about 60% with the remaining months making up the balance, the figures spread evenly month by month.</b></p> <p><b>During June through to August there are no available bed spaces on most week ends</b></p>
<p><b>EC5.6</b></p>	<p>Is there a Tourist Information Centre in the town and how well used is it? (The number of enquiries by various forms including phone calls, 'hits' to the Internet, if any, and the number of visitors to the Tourist Information Centre). This information can be sourced through the Tourist Information Centre itself.</p> <p>Identify if there are adequate information facilities for tourists visiting the area and how well used those facilities are.</p>	<p><b>Enquiries to the Tourist Information desk run to about 9000 per year. These are all person-to-person enquiries. Walk ins, where visitors help themselves, are not recorded. The impact of Tourist Information on the Internet remains a mystery until the privately owned Egnat site releases any such statistics.</b></p> <p><b>Tourist Information is available for 58 hours per week, the only days when this service is not available are Sunday and Bank Holidays. See above for use of facilities.</b></p>

## SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

<p><b>EC5.7</b></p>	<p>How much do visitors spend in the town or surrounding area? (Extract information on average visitor spending from visitor surveys). This information can be obtained from Visitors Surveys, undertaken by Local Tourist Board.</p> <p>Identify how important tourism spending is to the local economy.</p>	<p><b>We would welcome this information via our colleagues at Mid Sussex District Council. However they have stated that they will be commissioning a Visitor Survey in the near future.</b></p>
<p><b>EC5.8</b></p>	<p>Is visitor activity concentrated in the town itself or does it take place in the surrounding countryside? (Identify where main tourist destinations are and the number of visitors). This information can be obtained from Visitors Surveys, undertaken by Local Tourist Board.</p> <p>Identify the pattern of visitors.</p>	<p><b>30% in the town the balance being in the surrounding area. The Largest number of visitors going to the Bluebell Railway and the Nation Trust at Standen.</b></p>
<p><b>EC5.9</b></p>	<p>Does the number, range and quality of visitor facilities e.g. accommodation, quality of restaurants match expectations and needs? (Use results of visitor surveys). This information can be sourced either from the Tourist Board, the District Council, tourism officer or by undertaking a new survey.</p> <p>Identify need to improve or expand facilities.</p>	<p><b>Accommodation gets swamped at many weekends during the summer. Although the town has a diverse selection of restaurants, traditional fare is poorly catered for. At present there is also a need for Tea/Coffee shop venues. Moves to rectify this are currently under way with planning applications received for such a venue.</b></p>
<p><b>EC5.10</b></p>	<p>Is there a visitors' guide or town trail? (Number of town guides available and how up to date they are, and their coverage). This information can be sourced either from the Local Tourist Board or the Tourist Information Centre of the local Library.</p> <p>Identify the types of guides currently available and the potential to increase/alter the selection to better promote the town.</p>	<p><b>There is a dedicated visitor guide 'Discovering East Grinstead' published at 12 monthly intervals. Also available are a Town Guide with further in depth information and a Town Trail interpreting the town's architectural heritage published in both English and French. A comprehensive Accommodation Guide is also available which is updated on a monthly basis.</b></p> <p><b>The present material would appear to be adequate.</b></p>



<p><b>EC5.11</b></p>	<p>Does the town enter the 'Britain in Bloom' competition or the surrounding villages 'Best Kept Village'? The information may be available from the District Council or the Local Tourist Board.</p> <p>Identify any attempts that have been made to improve the profile of the town through nationwide competitions.</p>	<p><b>This has happened in the past, however there is not a suitable category for a town the size of East Grinstead. The town now has a very popular East Grinstead in Bloom annual competition, which has proved to be a great success. Not only householders and businesses are involved, but also local schoolchildren.</b></p> <p><b>There are several annual sporting fixtures using the excellent sports facilities in and around the town.</b></p>
<p><b>EC5.12</b></p>	<p>Are there any specialist tourism enterprises, such as language schools, conference centres? (Number of facilities available and their percentage of the total tourism/visitor facilities in the town). The information may be available from the Local Tourist Board or the Yellow Pages.</p> <p>Identify any additional draws to the town from facilities not usually associated with tourists.</p>	<p><b>Conferencing, seminars and exhibitions are well served locally with Chequer Mead Theatre and Arts Centre being a prime example. There are adult student centers and training centers such as the Church of Scientology at Saint Hill and the nearby premises of the Latter Day Saints.</b></p> <p><b>Two unique medical facilities, the Queen Victoria Hospital and Advance (The Hyperbaric Oxygen Trust attract world wide interest and visits by both patients &amp; medical personnel</b></p>
<p><b>EC5.13</b></p>	<p>Is there adequate signing to visitor attractions and the town centre? (Look at signage to/from tourist attractions from key points such as car parks, train station and between attractions). Information can be collected by undertaking an on the ground survey.</p> <p>Identify opportunities, including improving links between the town centre and other attractions.</p>	<p><b>Work is needed here, although the Town Enhancements currently under way may well address this problem.</b></p> <p><b>A bus links the Bluebell to Standen &amp; Sackville College on weekends in August, an expansion of this service would be welcomed.</b></p>

## WORKSHEET EC6 BUSINESS SUPPORT

These questions are aimed at finding out the basic data required to evaluate the level of support available to local businesses in the town and surrounding rural areas.

Organisations which might hold useful information include the economic development department of the District Council, the regional development agency, town centre manager or forum, business volunteer mentoring association, Small Business Service, Chamber of Trade and Commerce or business associations.

If there is not sufficient information available to answer the questions, an audit of facilities could be undertaken to find out about the work of business community support agencies in the area.

### CORE QUESTIONS

<b>EC6.1</b>	Do the banks, financial institutions and other business support services offer a full range of business advice and support? (Compare the range of services offered by local branches with complete portfolio of services). The information may be available from the local Business Directory, if there is one.  Identify shortfalls in the provision of financial support and advice to local businesses	<b>The Enterprise Centre offers free or subsidised help and advice to business in West Sussex</b>
<b>EC6.2</b>	Does the town have a town centre manager, town centre forum or similar organisation? (The number of such roles/organisations and their remit). This information can be sourced from the District Council or local knowledge. Identify the existence of these roles and any overlap between their services/remit.	<b>There was a town centre manager in the town from 1994-96, whose work was overseen by a steering group comprising local interest groups, the District , Town and County Councils, Sussex Enterprise etc No other initiative has replaced it. There is an Urban Transport Forum dealing with transport issues.</b>

<p><b>EC6.3</b></p>	<p>Is there a presence of the following organisations in the town: Small Business Service, Business Links, Chambers of Trade or Commerce, Learning and Skills Council, TEC, Enterprise Agency? (Assess the sources of advice available for businesses established in the area. Also assess the level and breadth of advice they offer). The information may be available from the Yellow Pages, the Business Directory, and the Regional Development Agency.</p> <p>Identify the coverage of business advice services for local businesses and any opportunities to expand support for local businesses.</p>	<p><b>The Small Business Service is operated in Sussex by Sussex Business Link, itself an offshoot of Sussex Enterprise. These will provide services for town businesses as required. The Enterprise Centre is the enterprise agency for the county, and again will provide a wide range of services for start ups, trading businesses and self employed. Services extend to social enterprises, charities and voluntary sector organizations.</b></p> <p><b>There is a Chamber of Commerce for EG.</b></p> <p><b>CADIA also has members in the town.</b></p> <p><b>The LSC will provide services in the area. There is an Education Business Partnership that covers the EG area.</b></p> <p><b>David Cowan Ass ( Architects &amp; Designers) are a firm who use room in library for training etc; 9-10 Old Stone Link, Ship St.</b></p> <p><b>There is good or potentially good business advice services available to local businesses.</b></p>
<p><b>EC6.4</b></p>	<p>What business support or initiatives have proved successful? (Draw out findings from monitoring of public sector funding initiatives). The information may be available from the District Council, the Small Business Service or the Regional Development Agency.</p> <p>Identify examples of good practice.</p>	
<p><b>EC6.5</b></p>	<p>Are there regular events which have the potential to draw the business community together, e.g. trade fairs? (Number, type and regularity of events). The information may be available from the Small Business Service or by talking to the Chamber of Commerce.</p> <p>Identify whether there is a need to develop/fund industry events.</p>	

<p><b>EC6.6</b></p>	<p>What is the current and likely future demand for broadband (&gt;2Mbs) communication services?</p> <p>Assess the current demand for and usage of broadband communications (e.g. ISDN, ADSL, cable or wireless connections for data traffic). In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how many local businesses currently use broadband communications for external access in their private/corporate communications networks or for Internet access? What proportion is this of all businesses?</li> <li>• how many local businesses currently have a demand for broadband communications which cannot be satisfied by existing facilities and services?</li> <li>• how many public sector office/site locations currently have broadband communication facilities for external access? What proportion is this of all public sector office locations? How many offices/sites plan to be using broadband communications facilities in the future (by end of 2003) - procured through a regional/central arrangement?</li> <li>• how many private homes have Internet access? How many private homes currently use broadband communications facilities? What proportions are these of all homes? Is their unsatisfied demand for broadband facilities for private homes? How is the demand for domestic access to broadband likely to change?</li> <li>• how many businesses use e-mail over the Internet?</li> <li>• how many businesses have a website address?</li> <li>• how many businesses make purchases or sales over the Internet?</li> <li>• how many businesses collaborate over the Internet with partner firms (cluster or supply chain relationships)?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Very difficult to assess. In the country in general the interest is high, but the demand is slightly lower because of the need for newer computer equipment, and the perceived level of technological understanding necessary.</b></p> <p><b>Demand for broadband services will probably increase as the public understand more about what it is, and BT are actively promoting it to their customers.</b></p>
---------------------	--	--

<p><b>EC6.7</b></p>	<p>What is the current and likely future status of the supply of broadband technology (&gt;2 Mbs) communication services?</p> <p>Assess the plans for expansion of access to broadband services. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is there a competitive telecoms supply? Do local cable companies offer telecommunications and data communications services, including Internet access? Is there an alternative to BT provision of fixed links? How is the situation likely to change by the end of 2003?</li> <li>• where is the nearest ISDN capable exchange? Is it within 3 miles?</li> <li>• is there reasonable mobile phone coverage? How many mobile services cover the area?</li> <li>• are there plans to extend ISDN and ADSL coverage in the next three years?</li> <li>• are there plans for any other coverage in the next three years?</li> <li>• what are the plans for BT to provide LLU (Local Loop Unbundling) facilities in local exchanges? Are they within 3 miles?</li> <li>• are there any local or regional plans to expand service provision of broadband facilities and services?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Broadband facilities (ISDN, ADSL etc.) are available in parts of the town served through the East Grinstead Exchange. Full extent of coverage is difficult to assess as it varies from house to house.</b></p> <p><b>Expansion/upgrading of current facilities depends on the demand for the services. Currently, residents in areas not covered are invited to register on the BT website and once a certain number have done this, their local exchange will be upgraded. This has happened in Steyning, for example.</b></p> <p><b>Only very general national plans of BT to continue to expand the broadband market.</b></p>
---------------------	---	--

## SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

<p><b>EC6.7</b></p>	<p>Is there a Business Directory or website for the town, or any arrangement for networking local suppliers? This information can be obtained by contacting the local Chamber of Commerce or talking to local business people.</p> <p>Identify how easily information on business support services can be obtained.</p>	<p><b>Town website run by EG Town Council - <a href="http://www.eastgrinstead.gov.uk">http://www.eastgrinstead.gov.uk</a></b>  <b>Also website <a href="http://www.egnet.co.uk">www.egnet.co.uk</a></b>  <b>Mid Sussex District Council produces a Mid Sussex Business Directory.</b></p> <p><b>Business Directory free on request. Clear business support info on MSDC website.</b></p>
<p><b>EC6.8</b></p>	<p>Are there adequate business meeting and conference facilities locally? (Locate number and type of facilities). Information can be obtained by doing a quick local survey, using the yellow pages or talking to the Chamber of Commerce or local businesses.)</p> <p>Identify if there is an adequate number and range of meeting and conference venues.</p>	<p><b>Again, a room at the library. Officially there is Wickenden Manor in Sharpthorne. Also Chequer Mead, major hotels such as the Ramada Jarvis Hotel, and Woodbury House Hotel. Several in the large houses in surrounding villages.</b></p> <p><b>There seems to be a good range if you include the town's hinterland.</b></p>
<p><b>EC6.9</b></p>	<p>What results have there been from any existing town centre management work? (Evaluate results of annual monitoring and funding review). The information may be available from the Town Centre Manager. This may be the District Council, one of the local business advice centres, or a consortium of local businesses.</p> <p>Identify examples of good practice or ways in which activities could be extended.</p>	<p><b>No town centre management work done.</b></p> <p><b>Pedestrianisation and town centre enhancement could be future activities.</b></p>
<p><b>EC6.10</b></p>	<p>How well used are the agencies such as Small Business Service, Business Links, Chambers of Trade or Commerce, Learning and Skills Council, TEC, Enterprise Agency? (Evaluate the number of enquiries in relation to the total number of businesses). This information can be sourced from the Register of Business Enquiries, the Business Directory and any District Council Business Surveys.</p> <p>Assess the level of use of the business advice services available.</p>	<p><b>From October 2001 to September 2002- a total of 60 East Grinstead businesses made use of the Enterprise Centre's services. Of these, 19 were existing businesses and 41 were start ups. This is a relatively high number and compares well with other towns of similar size in the Central Sussex area.</b></p>

<b>EC6.11</b>	Is a published strategy relating to the use of information technology?  Assess how many public internet access points are there, e.g. within a telecottage, electronic village hall, telecentre, library or school. What proportion of households have internet access at home, work or school including other educational establishments?	<b>No</b>  <b>8 (soon 12) at library</b>
---------------	--	--

## **TRANSPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY WORKSHEETS**

This section contains the following worksheets:

WORKSHEET T1  
EASE OF TRAVEL OUTSIDE THE LOCAL AREA

WORKSHEET T2  
EASE OF ACCESS TO SERVICES

WORKSHEET T3  
EASE OF MOVEMENT AROUND THE TOWN

These should be answered along with the worksheets in the environmental, economic and social sections. Advice on answering the worksheets is provided in the Healthcheck Handbook.

Contact details for all national and regional organisations mentioned in these worksheets can be found in the Directory of Contacts.



**WORKSHEET T1**  
**EASE OF TRAVEL OUTSIDE THE LOCAL AREA**

These questions help evaluate the level of accessibility to and from the area. These can be divided into two main categories, namely accessibility by car and accessibility by public transport.

If there is not sufficient information available to answer the questions it may be possible to undertake surveys to collect all the relevant information:

- travel times by train and bus can be obtained from timetables. If there are waiting times between changing services include these within the overall journey times
- travel times by car can be surveyed by undertaking the journey
- distances can be derived from mapping or as part of the journey time survey
- frequencies of bus and train services can be derived from timetables or directly from the service operators
- location of train and bus station and stops can be obtained by local survey.

**CORE QUESTIONS**

<p><b>T1.1</b></p>	<p>What is the distance to a national network of dual carriageway roads from the town and the least and most accessible villages? The Local Transport Plan and local maps will provide this information.</p> <p>Identify the ease of access to the town and villages from the main road network.</p>	<p><b>5 miles west to M23 motorway from East Grinstead itself, 8 miles from Dormansland and 12 miles from Hartsfield; 11 miles from town north to M25. Although access to the national network is quite close, it is a very congested part of the network, both east and west. Access to the town from the network is itself very congested, and to the villages tortuous.</b></p>
<p><b>T1.2</b></p>	<p>What is the distance and average travel time by car to nearest large town, from the town itself and from the most and least accessible village within the surrounding countryside? This information can be gained by doing travel time surveys or a local transport partnership may have some information.</p> <p>Identify how close and how long it takes to travel to the nearest large town.</p>	<p><b>8 miles ± 30 minutes to Crawley from town</b></p>

<p><b>T1.3</b></p>	<p>What improvements are planned for the local/regional highway network in your area? (Identify improvements and the planned timescales for those improvements). This information is in the Local Transport Plan and the Regional Transport Strategy, both from which should be available from the district council, or county council.</p> <p>Assess the number of improvements to take place, their location and when they will take place.</p>	<p><b>None planned – nothing in LTP at all</b>  <b>“Relief Road” proposed as an integral part of any housing development west of the town, if and when it takes place</b></p> <p><b>Potential Key Issue – Development, administrative and political issues, linked to a proper regional travel and development perspective, with access to the Crawley area from the Eastbourne/ Hastings area – also the particular problems of building a route through the AONB</b></p>
<p><b>T1.4</b></p>	<p>How far is the train station from the town centre? This information can be found from local maps.</p> <p>Identify how long it takes to get from the railway station to the town centre.</p>	<p><b>500 metres – 8 minutes walk – depending on where you take as the town centre – 3 minutes by bus; not worth it by car</b></p>
<p><b>T1.5</b></p>	<p>Is the main bus station or main concentration of bus termini in the town centre? This information can be found in the Local Transport Plan, or by undertaking a quick survey.</p> <p>Identify how close and how long it takes to get from the bus station to the town centre.</p>	<p><b>No – at train station but all buses use High Street and run via main shopping area</b></p>
<p><b>T1.6</b></p>	<p>Is it convenient to change between train and coach services, i.e. is it easy to walk or is there a good connecting bus service (Note how far away these services are physically, which train services the buses connect with, whether there is a long waiting time for any connecting services, and if there are other facilities or services such as taxis or cycle routes. Also look if any planned improvements would help this interchange.) The information to answer this question can be taken from local maps, coach and train timetables and the Local Transport Plan.</p> <p>Identify if it is easy to change between train and coach services.</p>	<p><b>No – only 2 coach services a day – to London and Eastbourne. Coach stop only in High Street, 10 minutes walk from train station – no connections</b></p> <p><b>Not very easy to change between train and coach, but very few travellers expected to do this – more important connections are train/ bus and coach/bus</b></p>

<p><b>T1.7</b></p>	<p>What is the frequency of rail services? (Look at the frequency of services to neighbouring market towns with a rail station and to the closest large town or city. Look at whether the times are convenient for people using the trains to get to work). This information can be obtained from the rail operators. Railtrack has a website containing timetable information.</p> <p>Identify the ease of access by rail to the nearest market towns and county town or city.</p>	<p><b>No rail services to nearby market towns.</b>  <b>Half-hourly service to Croydon (35 minutes) and London (54 minutes)</b></p> <p><b>Extra trains at peak – seems adequate although Sunday service could be more frequent and therefore better used.</b>  <b>No market town that E.G. people would want to get to: County town (Chichester) by rail up to Croydon and down; frequent services but long and expensive journey. Better, bus to Haywards Heath (hourly) and train from there,</b></p> <p><b>Potential for light rail or guided buses as part of the Crawley system, using old rail tracks</b></p>
<p><b>T1.8</b></p>	<p>What is the travel time to the nearest large town by bus/coach/train, from the town and from villages with good, adequate and poor public transport links? (Look at the travel time to the nearest major city by coach and by train, and do the same for the most and least accessible villages, if applicable. Look at whether there are connecting local bus services from the villages. Also investigate the frequency of service). This information can be obtained from the rail, coach and bus operators directly.</p> <p>Identify how long it takes to get to the nearest city by public transport or whether it is possible at all. Are these public transport links good, adequate or poor according to local need? Do these services provide for wheelchairs and baby buggies? Do they provide cycle racks so bike riders can access the countryside?</p>	<p><b>37 minutes by bus to Crawley from town</b>  <b>48 minutes by bus to Tunbridge Wells from town</b>  <b>30 minutes by bus to Tunbridge Wells; 120 minutes to Crawley</b></p> <p><b>Half-hourly service to Croydon (35 minutes) and London (54 minutes)</b>  <b>Coach - London 90 minutes</b></p> <p><b>Villages are mostly better served by stations other than E.G., depending on destination and position – e.g. Lingfield (for London), Gatwick airport (for whole country), Three Bridges or Haywards Heath (London or coast), Tunbridge Wells (London, coast or Kent).</b></p>
<p><b>T1.9</b></p>	<p>What is the number of national coach services per day? This information will be available from the national coach operators</p> <p>Identify the frequency and destinations of services.</p>	<p><b>2 to London (a.m.) – 3 in summer</b>  <b>2 to Eastbourne / Hastings (late p.m./ evening) – 3 in summer</b></p>

<p><b>T1.10</b></p>	<p>What improvements are planned for the public transport infrastructure and public transport services in your area? (Assess the number, location and timescale for any infrastructure and transport services). This information can be obtained from Railtrack, train, bus and coach operators and the Local Transport Plan.</p> <p>Identify the improvements planned and their likely impact upon the local area.</p>	<p><b>Loss of one bus route expected – (238). Bus services reduced during year and liable to be reduced further – improvements depend on funding and government policy.</b></p> <p><b>East Grinstead Station to be “public transport interchange hub” (WSCC). Comprehensive redevelopment integrating rail, bus and Bluebell railway contemplated. Bluebell railway extension to East Grinstead promised but threatened.</b></p> <p><b>Potential for multi storey car park and tramline as part of the development brief for the station and Railway Approach area</b></p>
---------------------	---	--

## SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

<p><b>T1.11</b></p>	<p>Is it as quick and easy to travel to the nearest large town by public transport as it is by car? (Compare travel times by car with that of bus, coach and train journeys, from the town and most and least accessible villages in the local area). This information can be obtained this information by doing travel time surveys and using timetables from the train and bus operators.</p> <p>Identify the differences in travel times between travelling by car, and public transport. Note if these are direct public transport services. Note the number of changes required to make the journey and where the whole journey is not possible by public transport, e.g. if a person needs to travel to the train station by car.</p>	<p><b>Not quite</b>  <b>30 minutes from town centre to Crawley by car; 37 minutes by bus</b>  <b>Direct bus but only hourly</b></p> <p><b>Croydon and London yes but otherwise no – and hardly likely to be, anywhere. Crawley and Tunbridge Wells reasonably direct by bus, with no changes, but bus connections from villages not on those routes, with varying connection times</b></p>
<p><b>T1.12</b></p>	<p>* Q 12 Are there cycle or walking routes between towns and villages?</p>	<p><b>Limited number of long-distance routes Forest Way north/ south and Worth Way east/ west</b></p>

**WORKSHEET T2  
EASE OF ACCESS TO SERVICES**

These questions help evaluate the level of accessibility to services, predominately by public transport. The location of key services will have been identified through other worksheets, in particular retail and town centre services, training and education, health and public safety and culture and heritage.

If there is not sufficient information available to answer the questions there are survey techniques that can be used:

- travel times by car can be surveyed by undertaking the journey
- distances can be derived from mapping or as part of the journey times survey.

Guidance on undertaking local transport surveys is given in Data Sources and Survey Methods.

**CORE QUESTIONS**

<p><b>T2.1</b></p>	<p>* Are bus and train times from outlying villages to the town convenient for travelling to work and children going to school? (Compile a table showing bus and train times during the day. Note when first and last services of the day are.) This information can be found from bus and train timetables. Are there safe, off-road cycle routes?</p> <p>Identify areas where people find it difficult to get to work or school by public transport.</p>	<p><b>Not convenient from some – e.g. West Hoathly hourly service, but others more frequent OK</b>  <b>Patchy coverage, <u>may require more detailed analysis</u></b></p> <p><b>All villages Mon-Sat except area served by 236 (E.G. to Lingfield via Felcourt) which is Monday – Friday. No evening buses after 7pm except Felbridge, Crawley Down, Copthorne (400 only, E.G. – Gatwick). No Sunday buses to/from Lingfield, Dormansland, Edenbridge, Hartsfield, West Hoathly, Turners Hill*, Maresfield*, No buses at all Hammerwood, Holtye*, Cowden*.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These have some buses to other destinations.</li> </ul> <p><b>Buses are adjusted to fit school times (most recently in September) Only problem for school access arise from parental choice of schools other those in whose catchment area they live, but even there, buses have been adjusted to fit where numbers justify. Independent schools make much use of their minibuses. Gatwick bus useful for Crawley factories but under threat – see above.</b></p>
--------------------	--	---

<p><b>T2.2</b></p>	<p>Are there any planned changes to rural public transport services? (Compare any planned changes such as new routes/discontinued routes or increased/decreased frequencies). This information will be found in the Local Transport Plan and from the bus and train operators.</p> <p>Identify gaps in the supply of services where demand exists. .</p>	<p><b>No planned changes (except 400 service – reduced frequency from Copthorne, Crawley Down and Felbridge)</b></p> <p><b>Direct400 bus link to Gatwick, most useful single destination for onward travel, is under threat of drastic reduction, details yet to be negotiated.</b></p> <p><b>NB Four Counties subsidise here, because of East Grinstead’s position on the boundaries.</b></p>
<p><b>T2.3</b></p>	<p>Is public transport accessible to the mobility impaired? (Compare public transport routes that have accessible buses/trains with the total number of routes). This information may be available from Access Officers in the district council or from specific surveys.</p> <p>Identify where people with mobility impairments are disadvantaged in using public transport.</p>	<p><b>1 route bus partially accessible buses (400)</b></p> <p><b>Metrobus, bringing in accessible buses as it is able. Improvements at bus stops planned/ in hand.</b></p> <p><b>Community transport is a local organisational issue</b></p>
<p><b>T2.4</b></p>	<p>Are there special bus/taxi services in places where there are number conventional public transport service catering for people who are mobility impaired? (Look at coverage of special needs transport). This information can be obtained from the County Council, the bus operators and the Rural Transport Partnerships.</p> <p>Identify gaps in facilities enabling disabled people to use public transport.</p>	<p><b>No (“E G Dart” and “E G Bus not yet truly Dialaride)</b> <b><u>Further consultation access group?</u></b></p> <p><b>E.G. Access group and EGBUS (minibus for disabled) do good work. There is one accessible taxi.</b></p> <p><b>One platform at station accessible only by two flights of stairs (Part of case for redevelopment)</b></p>

<p><b>T2.5</b></p>	<p>Is information on public transport easy to obtain? (Identify where information points are and the quality of the information offered). This information can be sourced from the Rural Transport Partnership, the bus and train operators and the County Council transport department.</p> <p>Identify if public transport services, including special services, such as Dial-A-Ride, need to be more widely advertised or more actively promoted.</p>	<p><b>Yes – good info at Help-point, station and Town Hall)</b></p> <p><b>Timetables at all bus stops (but not in Station foyer) well maintained. “Where to catch your bus” maps at main stops. Timetables at Public Library, Town Council and a High Street sweet shop (and on show in one charity shop). Weekly column in one local paper. Not easy to promote to non-users (short of prohibitively expensive delivery to every house)</b></p> <p><b>Information on services in the villages?</b></p>
--------------------	--	---

## SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

<p><b>T2.6</b></p>	<p>How many public services are available on-line and where can they be accessed? This information can be sourced by carrying out a web site search of all the public service providers, e.g. local health trust, education authority, district council and a local survey of public internet access points.</p> <p>Identify how easy it is to access electronic information about public services rather than having to physically travel, for example, to the Council Offices.</p>	<p><b>Bus and Train services all on line via West Sussex web-site, Metrobus and South Central Trains sites</b></p> <p><b>Depends of course on access at home or elsewhere</b></p>
<p><b>T2.7</b></p>	<p>Do buses travel right into the town centre? (Look at the walking distance from the main bus set down/pick up places to the focal point of the town centre). This information can be found in route maps from the bus operators and by measuring the distance directly from a map or by doing a quick on the ground survey.</p> <p>Identify if there is a need to relocate bus stops to bring them closer to the town centre.</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p><b>No – some relocation in hand as part of current scheme</b></p>

<p><b>T2.8</b></p>	<p>How easy is it to get to health, education, cultural and retail services by public transport? Pick three rural settlements that have poor, adequate and good public transport links. For each settlement find out how easy it is to get to the hospital, secondary school, job centre, supermarket, library, leisure/sports centre and cinema. Describe the journey in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• journey time including waiting time</li> <li>• directness of service or number of changes</li> <li>• number of different types of transport used</li> <li>• timetabling difficulties i.e. when the journey can't be made.</li> </ul> <p>This information can be obtained by doing a local survey of the location of facilities, bus and train timetables and route maps and travel time surveys.</p> <p>Identify where access to services is a problem for people within villages.</p>	<p><b><u>Further analysis required</u></b>  <b>East Grinstead to Princess Royal Hospital quite difficult by public transport (hourly bus service) – only one route (409 hourly) requiring change and wait for most villages (Metrobus issues 20p transfer ticket to encourage, though little take-up)</b></p> <p><b>Difficult from Lingfield/ Dormansland.  Easier from Forest Row / Hartsfield</b></p> <p><b>Villagers can generally get to these in East Grinstead Mon-Sat daytime provided they plan around the timetables, but they often (?) prefer to go to other equidistant towns for them (Tunbridge Wells, Crowborough [no bus], Uckfield, Crawley, Oxted or Edenbridge) East Sussex runs Social Services bus once a day to connect Hartsfield and Forest Row Uckfield and Crowborough.</b></p>
<p><b>T2.9</b></p>	<p>How easy is it to get to health, education, cultural and retail services by car? (Pick at least three rural settlements and for each measure journey times to the hospital, secondary school, job centre, supermarket, library, leisure/sports centre and cinema). Information will need to be obtained by undertaking journey time surveys.</p> <p>Identify where access to service is a problem for people within outlying villages.</p>	<p><b><u>Further analysis required</u></b></p> <p><b>Travel obviously easy. Parking not necessarily always at door</b></p>
<p><b>T2.10</b></p>	<p>What time is the last Friday or Saturday night bus service from the town to villages with poor, adequate and good public transport? This information can be obtained from the local bus operators.</p> <p>Identify whether people in rural communities reliant on public transport can enjoy the 'night life' of the town.</p>	<p><b><u>Further analysis required</u></b></p> <p><b>Almost nothing after 7pm, not much more after 6pm</b></p> <p><b>They cannot</b></p>



## WORKSHEET T3 EASE OF MOVEMENT AROUND THE TOWN

These questions are aimed at evaluating the level of access within and around the town. It may prove useful to map some of the information collected.

There may be a need to undertake a number of surveys to collect all the relevant information, including:

- traffic and parking counts
- travel to work and school data
- assessing barriers to mobility
- a cycle review.

Guidance on undertaking these surveys is given in Data Sources and Survey Methods.

### CORE QUESTIONS

<p><b>T3.1</b></p>	<p>Are there any seriously congested junctions or parts of the local road network? This may be local knowledge or traffic count data may have been collected by the county and district councils.</p> <p>Identify any traffic 'hot spots', and possible ways to resolve these.</p>	<p><b>Yes – London Road, Station Road Gyratory; Lewes Road (am)</b></p> <p><b>Whole length of A22/ A264 (joint stretch) Felbridge t East Grinstead. Route of A22 and A264 through town centre congested at peak times (including coastal traffic on summer Sundays and Bank Holidays). Villages suffer from traffic trying to avoid (e.g. Turners Hill – West Hoathly Wych Cross)</b></p>
<p><b>T3.2</b></p>	<p>Have there been many road traffic accidents involving pedestrian and cyclists at key locations in the town? (Compare accident rates involving pedestrians and cyclists with regional and national averages). This information can be obtained from the County Council's transport or highways department.</p> <p>Identify accident 'black spots' and hence the need to introduce safety measures to protect pedestrians and cyclists, such as segregated footpaths and cycle paths.</p>	<p><b><u>Further analysis required.</u></b></p> <p><b>Most dangerous-seeming road is the A264</b></p> <p><b>Work has been done on this, including cycle lanes, traffic calming, extra crossings and lights</b></p>

<b>T3.3</b>	<p>Are there any particular locations, e.g. shopping streets, where there is conflict between pedestrians and cars, buses or heavy vehicles? This may be local knowledge but it may be supplemented by local traffic counts or surveys.</p>	<p><b>Yes – High Street, London Road, West Street</b></p> <p><b>Town Centre enhancement measures now in hand are intended to ease this.</b></p> <p><b>Needs proper review/ re-assessment after completion, and a vision of the longer term possibilities as part of a development brief for the whole of the town centre</b></p>
<b>T3.4</b>	<p>Where are the short and long-term car parking, coach parking and disabled parking and how well used is it? (Identify locations and number of spaces). The district council may hold this information. A survey of car parks could be undertaken.</p> <p>Identify on and off-street car parking provision within walking distance of the town centre including the restrictions/charges applicable.</p>	<p><b><u>Further analysis required</u> – and a map</b></p> <p><b>Very well used</b></p> <p><b>No dedicated coach parking (though Lewes Road site has been suggested)</b></p> <p><b>Care parks are adequate but avoided by motorist to avoid paying. On street regulations are abused, despite new traffic warden presence</b></p>
<b>T3.5</b>	<p>How well used are the on and off-street car and coach parks? (Compare number of free spaces at say 11am on a weekday, market day and Saturday. Also make seasonal comparisons between summer and winter). This information can be obtained from the car park operators, usually the district council or by carrying out a local survey.</p> <p>Identify whether provision is adequate</p>	<p><b><u>Further analysis required</u></b></p> <p><b>Possible issue over long-term/ short-term parking?</b></p> <p><b>Privately owned multi storey has possibilities?</b></p>
<b>T3.6</b>	<p>How many public buildings and shops have disabled access? (Percentage of public buildings and shops which have disabled access). The district or county council may have a disability or access officer who might hold the information, alternatively do a local survey.</p> <p>Identify how easy it is for disabled people physically to access services within the town.</p>	<p><b>Access group has done a survey and a guide - <u>Further analysis required – proportion?</u></b></p>

<p><b>T3.7</b></p>	<p>Are the majority of disabled parking places within 250 metres of the main focal points of the town centre e.g. the main shopping area? (Identify the ratio of disabled parking places within easy reach of the main town centre attractions). The 250 metre zone will need to be identified on a map. The information on car parking can then be plotted.</p> <p>Identify availability of disabled parking also making reference to any shop mobility scheme.</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p><b>No shop mobility schemes – for Action Plan?</b></p> <p><b>Consult access group over usage?</b></p>
<p><b>T3.8</b></p>	<p>Can buses move freely throughout the town centre? (Look to see if one-way systems, traffic calming, bus priority measures or pedestrianisation that prevents buses accessing the focal points of the town centre e.g. the main shopping areas). This information can be sourced from bus operators.</p> <p>Identify any opportunities to increase the penetration of buses into the town centre.</p>	<p><b>Apart from loading lorries</b></p> <p><b>Not at all easily because:</b></p> <p>a) <b>Businesses loading/unloading in street (few have rear access)</b></p> <p>b) <b>Wanton car parking. Enhancement scheme should address this.</b></p> <p><b>Extra problems are caused by:</b></p> <p>c) <b>Frequent road works, and</b></p> <p>d) <b>Unduly expensive Temporally and spatially) closures and diversions for special events.</b></p> <p><b>Penetration is ideal. Buses have no priority.</b></p>
<p><b>T3.9</b></p>	<p>Are there any traffic management measures in place? (Identify the different management measures. Compare to information about traffic blackspots). This information can be taken from the Traffic Management Strategy the Local Transport Plan or by on-the ground survey.</p> <p>Assess the different forms of traffic management and its success.</p>	<p><b><u>Further analysis required</u></b></p> <p><b>Possible additional measures and opportunities – suggestions sought e.g. Imberhorne Lane to Traffic light s at The Star, Turners Hill Road?</b></p> <p><b>Yes. There are also traffic light, white lines, yellow lines)</b></p>
<p><b>T3.10</b></p>	<p>Are the main shopping streets in the town centre pedestrianised or with pedestrian priority measures? This information can be found out through local surveys.</p> <p>Identify the extent of pedestrian priority in the town centre and opportunities to extend this.</p>	<p><b>No</b></p> <p><b>No scheme of pedestrianisation feasible without extensive new provision for displaced traffic and no such provision realistically envisaged. Some limited partial pedestrianisation, not well observed by motorists. So far, pedestrian have had no priority, except at light controlled crossings.</b></p> <p><b>See above ref review and development brief, testing options</b></p>

<p><b>T3.11</b></p>	<p>*Where are the main foot and cycle paths within the town? This information can be obtained from the Rights of Way database held by the County Council or the Local Transport Plan.</p> <p>Identify the number of paths available for use by both pedestrians and cyclists, including family groups and the less able-bodied. Do these connect places that people wish to travel to? How could the network of routes be improved for all sectors of the community? For example, are there busy roads to cross?</p>	<p><b><u>Further analysis required</u></b>  <b>Segregated routes from Gardenwood (Worth Way) and Herontye ( Forest Way) estates</b></p> <p><b>For those who know. There is a tolerably good network of footpaths avoiding roads</b></p> <p><b>Promotion?</b></p>
<p><b>T3.12</b></p>	<p>Is it easy to find your way around town? (Using signposts only is it easy to find the way from, say, the short stay car park, train station and bus station to the main shopping street, library, the tourist information centre, both as a pedestrian and as a car user?). This is best tested in person and by surveying visitors to the town. There may also be information contained in the Visitor Surveys conducted by the local Tourist Board to inform this.</p> <p>Identify where signage needs to be improved.</p>	<p><b><u>Don't think so - Further analysis required</u></b>  <b><u>Suggest a walkabout</u></b></p> <p><b>Prospect on leaving station doors is bewildering. Buses are not instantly obvious. Street plan is out of sight on external wall of station in opposite direction to town and buses. Nothing in foyer. Church Tower gives clue, but perplexing traffic islands create difficulty in getting across traffic to right route. Good supply of finger-posts in town.</b></p> <p><b>Several issues over quality of linkages between parts of the town – impinges on economic and environmental issues.</b></p>

### SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

<p><b>T3.13</b></p>	<p>Are the pavements in good condition and are there dropped kerbs at crossing points? (Identify areas where paving is in poor condition and where there aren't any dropped kerbs at crossing points). This information can be obtained by local survey.</p> <p>Identify where pedestrians find it difficult to get around.</p>	<p><b><u>Access Group to be consulted</u></b></p> <p><b>Generally yes, and being addressed in town centre enhancement.</b></p> <p><b>Between Station and rest of town (see above)</b>  <b>Mouth of Station Road not easy to cross because of poor sight line and fast cars.</b>  <b>Mouth of Imberhorne Lane very difficult because pedestrians can't see lights obeyed by cars, inc filter.</b></p>
<p><b>T3.14</b></p>	<p>Is there a shop mobility scheme? (Identify location, operating hours and number of motorised wheelchairs). This information may be available from the Disability or Access Officer. Identify the availability of shop mobility</p>	<p><b>No</b>  <b>Sheltered Housing schemes have regular arrangements</b></p> <p><b>Could be?</b></p>

<p><b>T3.15</b></p>	<p>Do the majority of pedestrian crossings have tactile markings and audible warnings, i.e. pelican crossings? (Number of pedestrian crossings with tactile markings and an audible warning, as a percentage of the total crossings). This information can be gained by doing a local survey.</p> <p>Identify how easy it is for people with poor vision to find road crossing points.</p>	<p><b>Access Group?</b>  <b><u>Further analysis required</u></b></p> <p><b>Further crossing at Lingfield Road?</b></p>
<p><b>T3.16</b></p>	<p>Is there secure cycle parking at convenient locations throughout the town e.g. at the railway station, in the main shopping areas, at the bus station, at schools? This information can be obtained by doing an on-the-ground survey.</p> <p>Identify if there is any under-provision in cycle parking.</p>	<p><b>Only at the railway station, London Road and West Street –  Nothing in High Street, Queens Walk or Chequer Mead</b></p>
<p><b>T3.17</b></p>	<p>Are the majority of short-term parking places within 400 metres of the main shopping area? This information can be gained from doing a car park survey. The easiest method is to set out the 400 metre area on a map and mark on the car parks. Identify availability of shoppers parking.</p>	<p><b>Yes</b>  <b><u>Further analysis required</u></b></p> <p><b>More long-term parking?</b></p>
<p><b>T3.18</b></p>	<p>Do buses experience delays or unreliability as a result of traffic conditions and/or traffic management measures in the town? (Consider anecdotal evidence about the impacts of traffic conditions and traffic management). This information can be gained by canvassing the opinions of local bus operators.</p> <p>Identify measures which make public transport less attractive e.g. whether it be walking distance from bus stops to the main shopping areas, length of journey due to indirect routes and/or congestion.</p>	<p><b>Yes - daily</b></p>

<p><b>T3.19</b></p>	<p>Are there dedicated/segregated cycle routes linking residential areas to the town centre and to local schools? Choose two or three residential areas within 2 miles and describe the route to the town centre/school in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• length of journey on dedicated/segregated cycle route</li> <li>• length of journey on quiet residential roads</li> <li>• length of journey on major roads</li> <li>• number of main roads crossed and presence of any dedicated crossing points</li> <li>• where the route is well lit</li> </ul> <p>Identify areas where cycle facilities need to be improved.</p>	<p><b>Segregated routes from Gardenwood (Worth Way) Herontye ( Forest Way)</b>  <u>Further analysis required – ask schools etc</u></p> <p><u>Matters being addressed by school and hospital travel plans</u></p> <p><b>Incorporation of these plans in Action Plan?</b></p>
<p><b>T3.20</b></p>	<p>How easy is to walk to/from school? For example, choose two or three residential areas within a mile of both a primary and secondary school and describe the route in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• route length and how long it takes</li> <li>• number of main roads crossed and presence of any dedicated crossing points and/or assistance available</li> <li>• where the route is unlit</li> <li>• where the route goes through isolated/un-populated areas</li> </ul> <p>Identify areas where facilities need to be improved e.g. crossing installed, street lighting improved.</p>	<p><u>Further analysis required – ask schools</u></p> <p><u>Matters being addressed by school and hospital travel plans</u></p>

# **East Grinstead Action Plan Survey**

**February 2003**

Questionnaires returned 370

Orchid Data Services

1. Please rank each category in turn - e.g. if you think the most important transport issue is Community Transport, put 1 in the box, and the other issues 2 - 7 (or more). Then please do the same for the other categories.

## ENVIRONMENT

### First choice

Development west of the town	93	24.8
Improvement of Railway Approach	49	13.1
Improve points of arrival, eg Station	54	14.4
Improve/Redevelop Queens Walk	62	16.5
High Street and London Road	51	13.6
Areas of townscape character	27	7.2
Railway Heritage	14	3.7
Other*	25	6.7
Total	375	

### Second choice

Development west of the town	18	5.2
Improvement of Railway Approach	71	20.6
Improve points of arrival, eg Station	79	23.0
Improve/Redevelop Queens Walk	58	16.9
High Street and London Road	54	15.7
Areas of townscape character	26	7.6
Railway Heritage	27	7.8
Other*	11	3.2
Total	344	

### Third choice

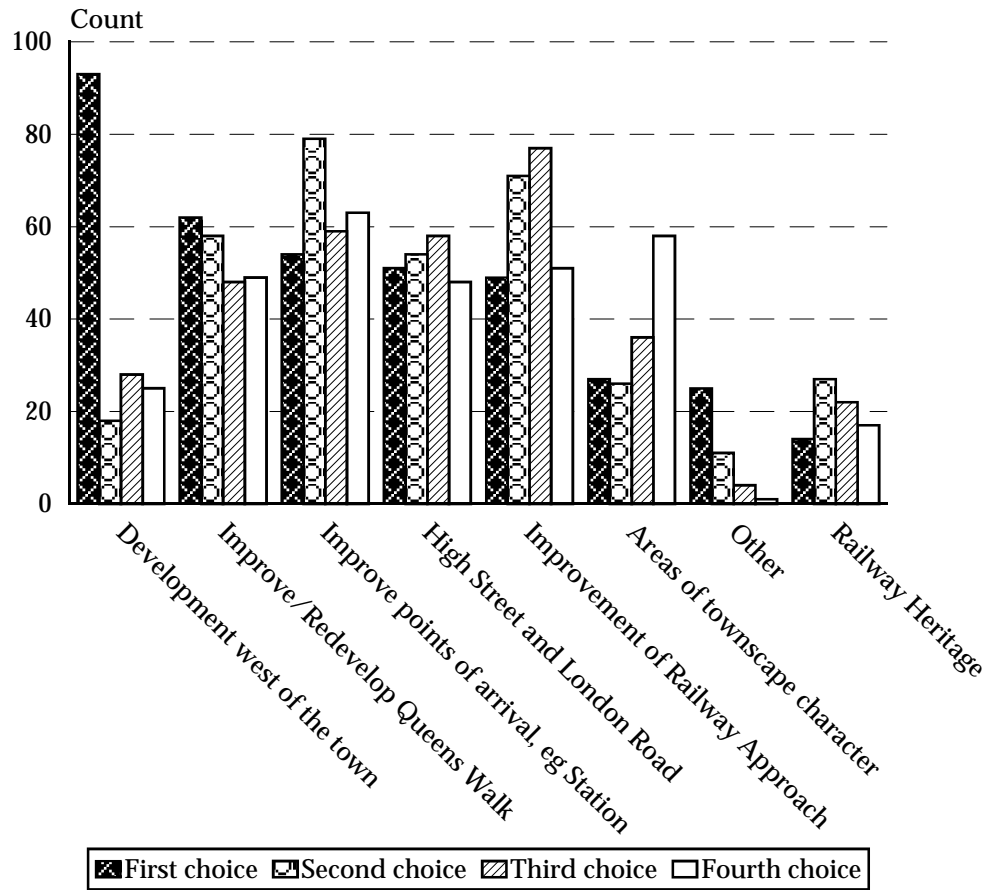
Development west of the town	28	8.4
Improvement of Railway Approach	77	23.2
Improve points of arrival, eg Station	59	17.8
Improve/Redevelop Queens Walk	48	14.5
High Street and London Road	58	17.5
Areas of townscape character	36	10.8
Railway Heritage	22	6.6
Other*	4	1.2
Total	332	

### Fourth choice

Development west of the town	25	8.0
Improvement of Railway Approach	51	16.3
Improve points of arrival, eg Station	63	20.2
Improve/Redevelop Queens Walk	49	15.7
High Street and London Road	48	15.4
Areas of townscape character	58	18.6
Railway Heritage	17	5.4
Other*	1	0.3
Total	312	



Fig 1. Environment priorities



	Count	Percent
<b>Fifth choice</b>		
Development west of the town	25	8.6
Improvement of Railway Approach	30	10.3
Improve points of arrival, eg Station	36	12.4
Improve/Redevelop Queens Walk	45	15.5
High Street and London Road	45	15.5
Areas of townscape character	69	23.7
Railway Heritage	40	13.7
Other*	1	0.3
Total	291	
<b>Sixth choice</b>		
Development west of the town	20	7.1
Improvement of Railway Approach	32	11.4
Improve points of arrival, eg Station	22	7.8
Improve/Redevelop Queens Walk	38	13.5
High Street and London Road	33	11.7
Areas of townscape character	69	24.6
Railway Heritage	66	23.5
Other*	1	0.4
Total	281	
<b>Seventh choice</b>		
Development west of the town	85	31.1
Improvement of Railway Approach	10	3.7
Improve points of arrival, eg Station	12	4.4
Improve/Redevelop Queens Walk	21	7.7
High Street and London Road	18	6.6
Areas of townscape character	20	7.3
Railway Heritage	104	38.1
Other*	3	1.1
Total	273	
<b>Eighth choice</b>		
Development west of the town	6	24.0
Improvement of Railway Approach	0	0.0
Improve points of arrival, eg Station	0	0.0
Improve/Redevelop Queens Walk	3	12.0
High Street and London Road	4	16.0
Areas of townscape character	3	12.0
Railway Heritage	6	24.0
Other*	3	12.0
Total	25	

## \*Other submitted environment items

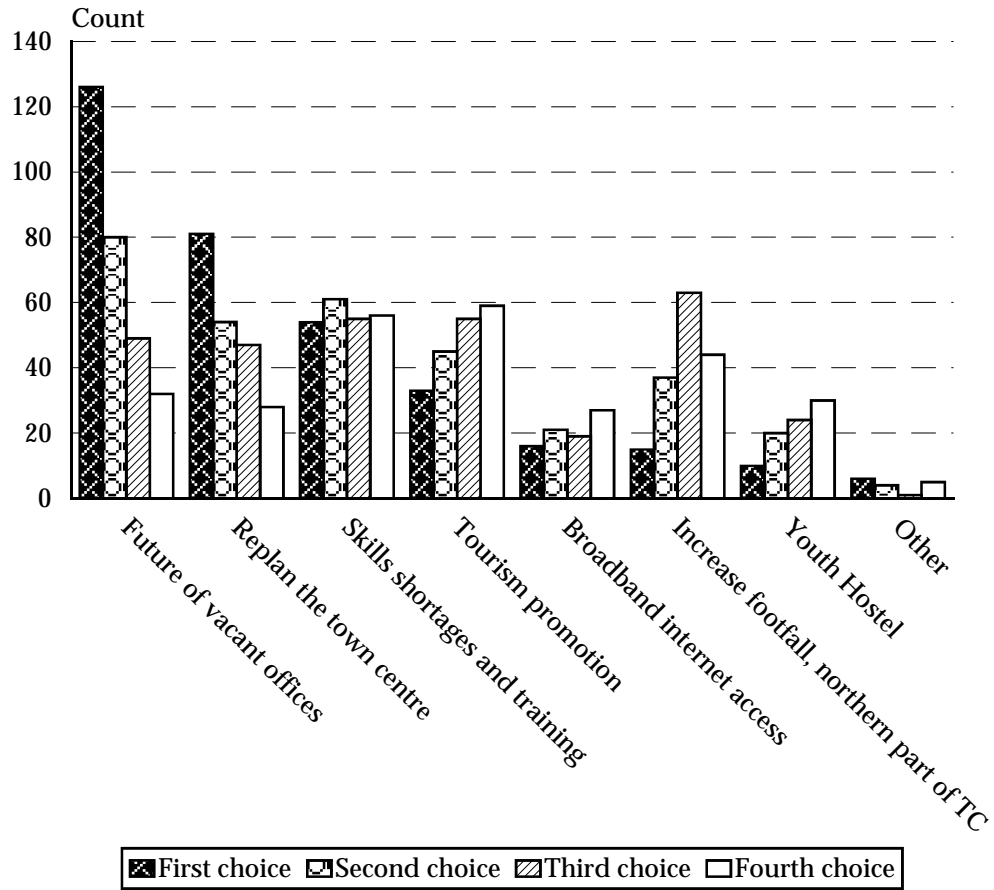
*Litter problem (4); Street cleaning (4); More/better public toilets (2); Poor/unreliable street lighting (2); Provision and emptying of litter bins (2); Road maintenance (2); West Street unsafe (2); Biodiversity, Bluebell railway extension, Convert unused buildings for affordable housing, Cycle access, Graffiti, Improve approach to town via West Street, Improve railway approach, Improve London Road, More covered walkways and shopping, Need for bypass, Pollution from traffic, Protect green Belt, Protect open spaces for recreational use, Queensway needs traffic calming, Road congestion, Tidy up West Hills southern side, Traffic on A22, Upgrade pavement (all one each).*

## Environment comments:

*No development to the west of town without better infrastructure (8); Inadequate street cleaning (7); Against development to west of town (6); Fear more development will spoil character (5); In favour of bypass (5); Litter problem (5); Fear development will increase traffic (4); Improve the railway station (3); Station needs more car parking (3); Against large-scale housing development (2); Bypass needed before further development (2); Need for seats for shoppers (2); Queens Walk is miserable and uninviting (2); Railway Approach shabby/dangerous at night (2); Too many building societies and charity shops (2); Against Imberhorne development, Approach from Felbridge poor, Badly let down by Town Council, Better public toilets, Better to develop Crawley, Better to develop east of the town, Buildings are old, Chewing gum on pavements, Develop brownfield sites, Do not build houses under Gatwick flight paths, Empty shops, Encourage large shops to open, Encourage people to take their litter home, Fear East Grinstead Crawley and Crawley Down will merge, Free collection of bulky refuse, General run down appearance, High Street/London Road should be pedestrianised, Improve railway station area when Bluebell Railway arrives, Improve traffic flow, Keep old buildings, Large town map in giving local information, Leaved things alone, Litter on railway line approaching East Grinstead, Maintain green areas, Maintain strategic gaps, More street cleaning outside the town centre, Must not become a dormitory for Crawley/Gatwick, Need for affordable homes, Need for more flowers, Need for more green areas and public open spaces, Need more skilled jobs, No building on greenfield sites, No development to the west without a bypass, No more ugly office blocks, Overflowing litterbins, Parking on pavements, Pedestrianise High Street and London Road, Persuade people not to drop chewing gum, Preserve Victorian cottages, Problem of dumped cars, Promote self-build schemes, Proper town museum, Ratepayer should not pay for any of these projects, Redevelop Queens Walk, Redevelopment of Martells site, Retain historic atmosphere, Some development needed, Traffic is a major cause of environmental degradation, Uneven pavements (all one each).*

	Count	Percent
<b>ECONOMY</b>		
<b>First choice</b>		
Skills shortages and training	54	15.8
Replan the town centre	81	23.8
Increase footfall, northern part of TC	15	4.4
Future of vacant offices	126	37.0
Tourism promotion	33	9.7
Youth Hostel	10	2.9
Broadband internet access	16	4.7
Other*	6	1.8
Total	341	
<b>Second choice</b>		
Skills shortages and training	61	18.9
Replan the town centre	54	16.8
Increase footfall, northern part of TC	37	11.5
Future of vacant offices	80	24.8
Tourism promotion	45	14.0
Youth Hostel	20	6.2
Broadband internet access	21	6.5
Other*	4	1.2
Total	322	
<b>Third choice</b>		
Skills shortages and training	55	17.6
Replan the town centre	47	15.0
Increase footfall, northern part of TC	63	20.1
Future of vacant offices	49	15.7
Tourism promotion	55	17.6
Youth Hostel	24	7.7
Broadband internet access	19	6.1
Other*	1	0.3
Total	313	
<b>Fourth choice</b>		
Skills shortages and training	56	19.9
Replan the town centre	28	10.0
Increase footfall, northern part of TC	44	15.7
Future of vacant offices	32	11.4
Tourism promotion	59	21.0
Youth Hostel	30	10.7
Broadband internet access	27	9.6
Other*	5	1.8
Total	281	

Fig 2. Economy priorities



	Count	Percent
<b>Fifth choice</b>		
Skills shortages and training	45	16.7
Replan the town centre	23	8.5
Increase footfall, northern part of TC	60	22.2
Future of vacant offices	20	7.4
Tourism promotion	48	17.8
Youth Hostel	43	15.9
Broadband internet access	31	11.5
Other*	0	0.0
Total	270	
<b>Sixth choice</b>		
Skills shortages and training	18	6.7
Replan the town centre	38	14.2
Increase footfall, northern part of TC	32	12.0
Future of vacant offices	12	4.5
Tourism promotion	33	12.4
Youth Hostel	87	32.6
Broadband internet access	44	16.5
Other*	3	1.1
Total	267	
<b>Seventh choice</b>		
Skills shortages and training	9	3.6
Replan the town centre	22	8.9
Increase footfall, northern part of TC	20	8.1
Future of vacant offices	6	2.4
Tourism promotion	18	7.3
Youth Hostel	59	23.9
Broadband internet access	112	45.3
Other*	1	0.4
Total	247	
<b>Eighth choice</b>		
Skills shortages and training	1	8.3
Replan the town centre	3	25.0
Increase footfall, northern part of TC	2	16.7
Future of vacant offices	1	8.3
Tourism promotion	1	8.3
Youth Hostel	0	0.0
Broadband internet access	2	16.7
Other*	2	16.7
Total	12	

### **\*Other submitted economy items**

*Convert empty office buildings to affordable housing (2); Attract more specialist food shops, Better shops, Bluebell Railway extension, Empty shops, Greater freedom to park and shop, Home working support, Lower Council Tax, Need for more affordable B&B and hotel accommodation, Need for more help in getting employment, Need more shops, New museum, Post 16 vocational training, Upgrade leisure facilities (all one each).*

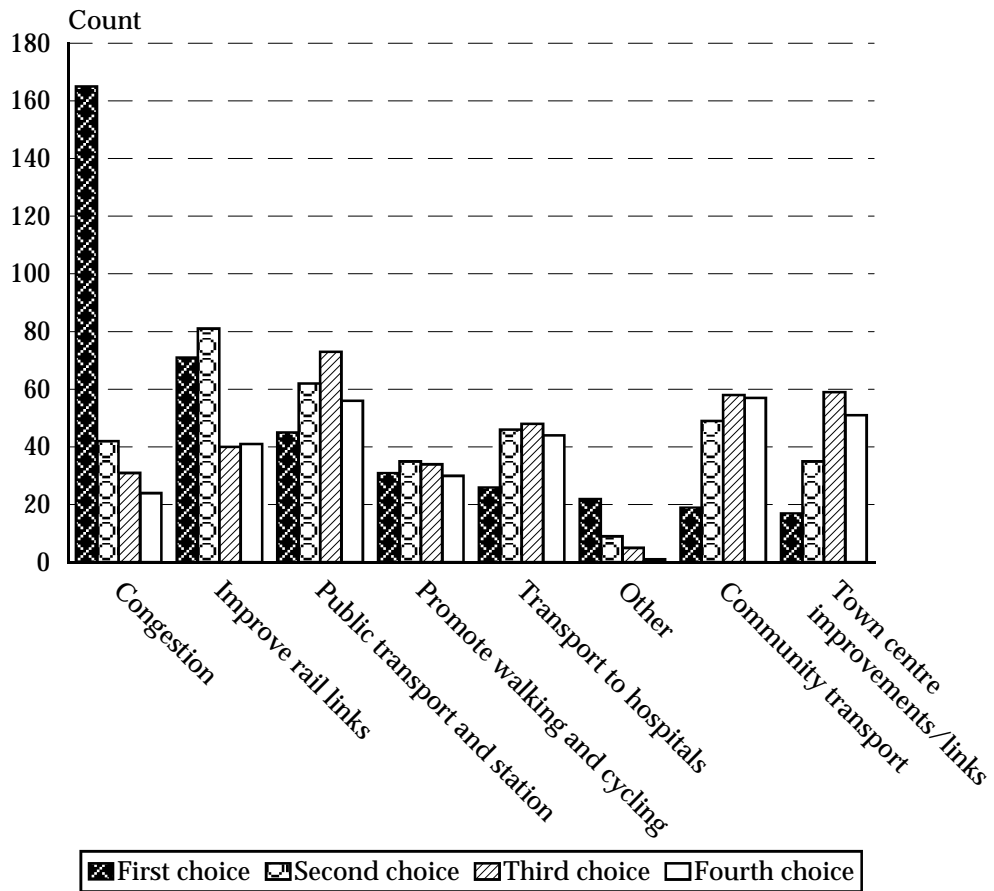
### **Economy comments:**

*Convert office blocks to housing (8); Promote tourism (6); Develop shopping (4); Need for large stores (3); Too many card shops and building societies (3); Apprenticeships (2); Encourage small businesses (2); Encourage small shops (2); Expedite Bluebell Line extension (2); Increase tax on empty offices/houses (2); Need for affordable housing (2); Need more useful shops (2); Pedestrianise town centre (2); Reduce congestion (2); Against bypass, Against youth hostel, Attract quality retailers, Attract tourist by retaining small country town atmosphere, Better advertising of local events, Bluebell railway will boost tourism, Bluebell railway will be good for the town, Centre needs repair and maintenance not replanning, Convert empty office blocks initially to house asylum seekers - then provide local housing later, Convert empty offices into car parks, Develop railway heritage, Economy is linked to transport efficiency, Free internet café, Inadequate car parking, Local salaries to attract people away from the City, Local training would reduce need to travel, More part time jobs for 14-16 years olds, Need a better shopping centre, Need for bypass to reduce congestion, Need for farmers market, Need for larger museum, Need for local job centre, Need for small shopping centre, Newcomers will need jobs, Parking charges too high, Redevelop Queens Walk to attract better quality stores, Shopping centre must not be allowed to atrophy to antiques only, Unhappy about Scientologists opening more and more businesses (all one each).*

	Count	Percent
<b>TRANSPORT</b>		
<b>First choice</b>		
Congestion	165	41.7
Improve rail links	71	17.9
Community transport	19	4.8
Transport to hospitals	26	6.6
Promote walking and cycling	31	7.8
Town centre improvements/links	17	4.3
Public transport and station	45	11.4
Other *	22	5.6
Total	396	
<b>Second choice</b>		
Congestion	42	11.7
Improve rail links	81	22.6
Community transport	49	13.6
Transport to hospitals	46	12.8
Promote walking and cycling	35	9.7
Town centre improvements/links	35	9.7
Public transport and station	62	17.3
Other *	9	2.5
Total	359	
<b>Third choice</b>		
Congestion	31	8.9
Improve rail links	40	11.5
Community transport	58	16.7
Transport to hospitals	48	13.8
Promote walking and cycling	34	9.8
Town centre improvements/links	59	17.0
Public transport and station	73	21.0
Other *	5	1.4
Total	348	
<b>Fourth choice</b>		
Congestion	24	7.9
Improve rail links	41	13.5
Community transport	57	18.8
Transport to hospitals	44	14.5
Promote walking and cycling	30	9.9
Town centre improvements/links	51	16.8
Public transport and station	56	18.4
Other *	1	0.3
Total	304	



Fig 3. Transport priorities



	Count	Percent
<b>Fifth choice</b>		
Congestion	20	6.8
Improve rail links	44	14.9
Community transport	49	16.6
Transport to hospitals	53	17.9
Promote walking and cycling	27	9.1
Town centre improvements/links	54	18.2
Public transport and station	48	16.2
Other *	1	0.3
Total	296	
<b>Sixth choice</b>		
Congestion	23	8.5
Improve rail links	22	8.1
Community transport	50	18.5
Transport to hospitals	50	18.5
Promote walking and cycling	49	18.1
Town centre improvements/links	49	18.1
Public transport and station	27	10.0
Other *	0	0.0
Total	270	
<b>Seventh choice</b>		
Congestion	16	6.2
Improve rail links	18	6.9
Community transport	29	11.2
Transport to hospitals	40	15.4
Promote walking and cycling	96	37.1
Town centre improvements/links	41	15.8
Public transport and station	18	6.9
Other *	1	0.4
Total	259	
<b>Eighth choice</b>		
Congestion	0	0.0
Improve rail links	2	14.3
Community transport	0	0.0
Transport to hospitals	5	35.7
Promote walking and cycling	3	21.4
Town centre improvements/links	1	7.1
Public transport and station	1	7.1
Other *	2	14.3
Total	14	

### **\*Other submitted transport items**

*Need for more car parks (7); Need for bypass (5); Free transport for pensioners (2); Improve bus service (2); Ban traffic from London Road, Bypasses N-S & E-W, Evening buses, Facilities for pram/wheelchair users, Forrest Row needs a bypass, Improve bus routes, Improve buses/bus shelters, Improve Crawley Down bus service, Improve traffic flow, Links to Redhill and rest of Surrey, Make Station Road two-way, More afternoon trains, More express bus services, Need easy access buses, Need for multi-storey car park, Need Supermarket buses, No southern bypass, No Sunday bus service to Sharpthorne, Rail link to Crawley, Restore link to Gatwick, School buses, Traffic calming, Transport for shoppers on all estates, Worth Way (all one each).*

### **Transport comments:**

*Need for bypass (20); Too much congestion (13); Inadequate car parking (9); Improve public transport (7); Hospital travel difficult (6); Better public transport to Gatwick (4); Enforce parking restrictions (4); Frequent direct route to Crawley (4); Rail link to Brighton (4); Cheap buses from estates to the station/centre/schools (3); Extend and improve cycle paths (3); Better facilities at railway station (2); Cheaper parking (2); Extend Bluebell Railway (2); Hospital needs more car parking (2); Inadequate parking at station (2); Integrate busses and trains and fares (2); Need for central bus/coach station (2); Need for more fast trains to London (2); Provide alternatives to car travel (2); Public transport is too limited and expensive (2); Reinstate frequent service to Gatwick (2); Transport hub would make congestion worse (2); Against bypass, Against speed bumps, Ban cycling on pavements, Better bus arrival point, Better transport to Tunbridge Wells, Buses to Crawley are too slow, Bypass should link to A264 to the east, Car sharing club, Cleaner buses, Danger for pedestrians in West Street, Design traffic out of new developments, Develop community transport, Encourage children to walk/cycle to school, Encourage cycling, Faster trains to Croydon, Improve rail links, Inadequate bus service, Lack of parking for residents, Life difficult without a car, Light rail link to Three Bridges, London Road green route for pedestrians, Lower speed limit in lanes, More evening buses, More facilities for the disabled, More housing will worsen congestion, More roads cause more traffic, Need bus service to Lingfield, Need bypass before more housing, Need for better station building, Need for park and ride, Need integrated transport, Need more bus stops/shelters, Need pedestrian crossing Lingfield Road, Poor transport to Brighton hospitals, Public transport does not serve the needs of the elderly, Reduce car parking to restrict car usage, Reduce congestion by improving public transport, Reinstate Tunbridge Wells - Gatwick rail link, Reopen rail link to Crawley Down, School "walking buses", School buses could reduce congestion, Too many dirty old railway carriages, Too much parking on pavements, Town must be accessible by car, Train links to surrounding villages, Use mini buses, Walking and cycling are already good, Want free transport (all one each).*

**SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY**

**First choice**

Aging Population	41	11.0
Provision of Day Care places	24	6.4
Affordable Housing	119	31.9
Vandalism	118	31.6
Pull together community efforts	15	4.0
Sports facilities	31	8.3
"What's on" information	11	2.9
Other *	14	3.8
Total	373	

**Second choice**

Aging Population	58	17.0
Provision of Day Care places	40	11.7
Affordable Housing	54	15.8
Vandalism	73	21.4
Pull together community efforts	54	15.8
Sports facilities	37	10.9
"What's on" information	16	4.7
Other *	9	2.6
Total	341	

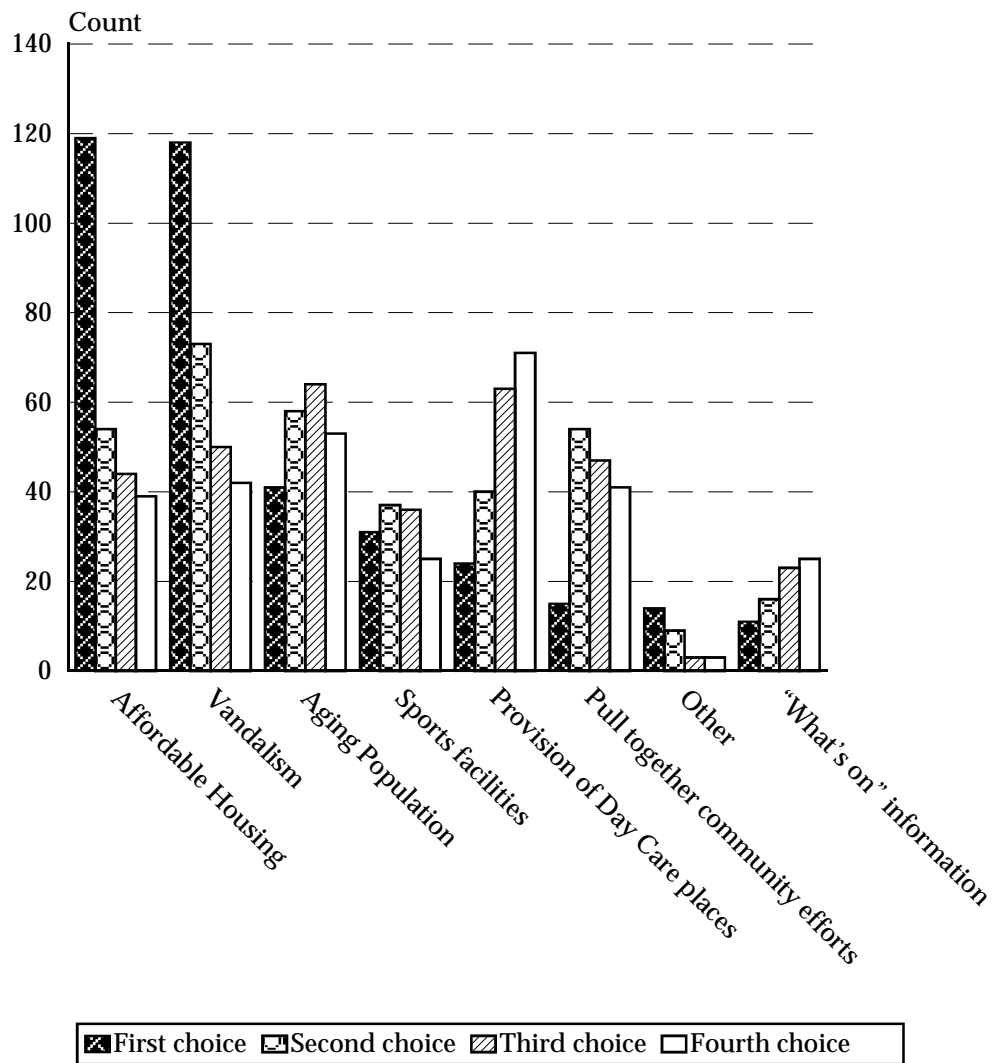
**Third choice**

Aging Population	64	19.4
Provision of Day Care places	63	19.1
Affordable Housing	44	13.3
Vandalism	50	15.2
Pull together community efforts	47	14.2
Sports facilities	36	10.9
"What's on" information	23	7.0
Other *	3	0.9
Total	330	

**Fourth choice**

Aging Population	53	17.7
Provision of Day Care places	71	23.7
Affordable Housing	39	13.0
Vandalism	42	14.0
Pull together community efforts	41	13.7
Sports facilities	25	8.4
"What's on" information	25	8.4
Other *	3	1.0
Total	299	

**Fig 4. Social and community priorities**



	Count	Percent
<b>Fifth choice</b>		
Aging Population	45	15.4
Provision of Day Care places	53	18.1
Affordable Housing	28	9.6
Vandalism	22	7.5
Pull together community efforts	75	25.6
Sports facilities	41	14.0
"What's on" information	28	9.6
Other *	1	0.3
Total	293	
<b>Sixth choice</b>		
Aging Population	34	12.7
Provision of Day Care places	33	12.3
Affordable Housing	17	6.3
Vandalism	13	4.9
Pull together community efforts	47	17.5
Sports facilities	67	25.0
"What's on" information	57	21.3
Other *	0	0.0
Total	268	
<b>Seventh choice</b>		
Aging Population	20	7.8
Provision of Day Care places	23	9.0
Affordable Housing	13	5.1
Vandalism	11	4.3
Pull together community efforts	16	6.3
Sports facilities	62	24.2
"What's on" information	111	43.4
Other *	0	0.0
Total	256	
<b>Eighth choice</b>		
Aging Population	2	18.2
Provision of Day Care places	1	9.1
Affordable Housing	1	9.1
Vandalism	0	0.0
Pull together community efforts	0	0.0
Sports facilities	1	9.1
"What's on" information	5	45.5
Other *	1	9.1
Total	11	

### **\*Other submitted social and community items**

*Funding of Chequer Mead (4); Litter (4); Facilities for young people (3); Inadequate policing (2); Converts empty offices into low cost housing, Improve The Atrium, Lack of tea shops, More entertainment, More use of voluntary groups, Music tuition for kids, Outdoor play area on Imberhorne estate, Provision of day care, Provision of public toilets, Run down unkempt appearance, Street cleaning, Too much parking on pavements (all one each).*

### **Social and community comments:**

*Need for better policing (16); Problem of vandalism (12); More facilities for young people (7); Decline in local hospital services (5); Problem of antisocial young people (5); Affordable housing needed for young/elderly (4); Too many sheltered housing developments (3); Better provision for the elderly (2); Better swimming pool (2); Convert empty office blocks to affordable housing (2); Need for an under 18s club (2); Access for the disabled, Better athletics facilities, Close night clubs, Day place for teenagers, East Grinstead seems a scruffy town, Educate people not to drop litter, Encourage use of library for local information, Filthy state of the town, Good quality housing for young people, Improve open spaces for flat dwellers, Increase funding to the CAB, Lack of bowling alley, Local events need better advertising, Moat Road pond area, More social activities for the elderly, More sports for retired people, Need all weather sports court, Need better quality sports facilities, Need community centre for young people, Need for a market place, Need for affordable nursing homes, Need for more public toilets, Need for seats around the town, Need good regular mixed market, Need more shops, No more high cost sheltered accommodation for the elderly, No room for more housing, Non-alcoholic bars for young people, Problem of under age drinking, Provide IT facilities for young people, Reduce alcohol outlets, Residential respite care, Safe walking for the elderly in East Court, Schools and youth organisation should work to reduce vandalism, Should be dealt with by individuals/specialist organisations, Too many charity shops, Too many drinking places, Too many eating and drinking places, Too much drugs and alcohol, Use school facilities for public indoor sports, Want public meeting to discuss social and community issues (all one each).*

**2. If you had to pick just two issues from the whole list that concern you most, what would they be?**

**Traffic**

*Traffic congestion (74); Need for bypass (31); Speeding traffic (2); Traffic volume (2); Traffic calming (2); Traffic forces onto village roads, Turners Hill cross roads (both one each).*

**Community**

*Vandalism (56); Ageing population (4); Develop community spirit (2); Alcohol and drugs, Antisocial behaviour, Encourage anthroposophical movements and other spiritual centres, High cost of living, Intergenerational projects needed, Lack of community provision for the vulnerable, Lunch club and transport too expensive for the elderly, Petty crime, Safety of streets at night, Scientology (all one each).*

**Transport**

*Inadequate public transport (41); Poor rail services/links (11); Encourage cycling and walking (7); Transport to hospitals (6); Community transport (5); Rail link/more buses to Crawley (5); Improve rail link to Brighton (3); Rail links (2); Rail links to Copthorne and Crawley Down (2); Transport to south/ west (2); Better public transport to Gatwick would lighten congestion at Felbridge, Direct link to Crawley, Free travel for pensioners, Hospital transport, Improve bus services, Integrate Bluebell Railway with South-Central services, Integrated transport, Lack of alternatives to the motorcar, Lack of school buses, More evening transport for youngsters, Need for later buses, Rail link to Gatwick, Reinstate bus to Gatwick, Restore 400 Metrobus, Train service to London, Transport access to the centre, Transport for the elderly (all one each).*

**Development**

*Major development to west of town (40); Need for affordable housing (34); Redevelopment of Queens Walk (14); Future of empty office blocks (11); Too much development (5); High Street and London Road (4); Imberhorne Farm development (4); Develop tourism (3); Replan town centre (3); Improve town from Post Office lights to Railway Approach (2); No building on greenfield sites (2); No development without supporting infrastructure (2); No more development to west of town (2); Promote tourism (2); Proposed new housing development (2); Redevelop London Road (2); Redevelop Railway approach (2); Redevelop the railway station (2); Retain existing town boundaries (2); Affordable housing for the elderly, Against bypass, Against bypass on greenfield land, Against Christopher Road development, Against southern bypass, Attract new businesses into the town, Convert empty office blocks to affordable housing, Empty shops, Improve infrastructure before more housing, Improve points of arrival, Improve Railway approach, No more housing, No more large housing estates, Overcrowding, Planned expansion of Gatwick Airport, Provide houses closer to where people work, Railway heritage, Redevelopment of Martells site, Threat to existing properties due poor planning controls, Town centre improvements (all one each).*

**Services**

*Inadequate policing (13); Day care provision (3); Poor/poorly maintained street lighting (3); Local hospital services (2); Care for the elderly, Fund the CAB, Lack of vocational training (all one each).*

**Environment**

*Keep East Grinstead clean and tidy (9); Litter (8); Cater for flat dwellers, Clean Queens Road, Continuous road works, Improve railway approach, Litter from eating and drinking places, Protection of the countryside, State of narrow part of West Street, Too many charity shops and building societies, Too many flats for older people, Too many licensed premises, Unsightly modern developments (all one each).*



### **Facilities**

*Improve shopping facilities (7); Sports facilities (5); Lack of facilities/services for young people (4); Skills shortage/training (3); Access to the town, Benches in the town centre, Better internet access, Better swimming pool, Broadband access, Chequer Mead funding, Entertainment for the elderly, Improve The Atrium, Inadequate sports facilities, Lack of cheap sports facilities, Lack of facilities for teenagers to meet in a safe environment, Lack of good quality shops, Need for better shopping centre, Need greater variety of shops, Non-alcohol bars for young people, Reopen bowling alley, Unsatisfactory public toilets (all one each).*

### **Services**

*Inadequate policing (13); Day care provision (3); Poor/poorly maintained street lighting (3); Local hospital services (2); Care for the elderly, Fund the CAB, Lack of vocational training (all one each).*

### **Parking**

*Inadequate car parking (11); Illegal/antisocial parking (3); Inadequate parking at station (2); Elderly need more parking spaces, Parking restricted outside my house (all one each).*

### **Pedestrians**

*Pedestrianise the High Street (2); West Street is dangerous for pedestrians (1).*

## **3. What sort of town and community would you like East Grinstead to be in the future?**

*Market/country town (16); Safe (11); Good shopping centre (10); Carry on as it is (9); Clean and tidy (7); Friendly community (6); Good public transport (6); Traffic problems solved (6); Cater for all ages/Balanced population (5); Caring community (4); Good social mix (4); Community spirit (3); Tourist attractive (3); Attractive to tourists and shoppers (2); Forward looking (2); Less crime and antisocial behaviour (2); Less noise on Friday/Saturday nights (2); Prosperous (2); Self-contained (2); Thriving town (2); Town with character (2); Accessible, Affordable housing, Alcohol less available to young people, Attract small businesses, Attractive, Attractive place to visit, Balance of commuters/locally employed, Become closer to villages through better transport, Cleaner streets, Compact town centre, Develop specialist sports facilities, Employment for local people, Encourage young people to stay, Fewer night clubs, Fewer offices, Fewer people and cars, Free from traffic, Historical character, Housing for local people, Increasing sense of heritage, Independence from Crawley, Law abiding, Less vandalism, Lively town, Maintain East Court, Maintain existing town centre shopping, More affordable housing, More consultation with residents, More drop in cafes for youngsters, More entertainment/events, More facilities, More facilities for young people, More modern shops, More tourism, No more housing, Not a dormitory town, Not ruined by insensitive development, Pedestrianisation, Pleasant residential town, Preserve green belt, Preserve old houses, Reduced traffic in town centre, Retain historic atmosphere, Retain historic buildings, Return of civic pride, Rural, Safeguard tranquillity and safety in residential areas, Same size, Semi rural, Small scale mixed housing developments, Sophisticated, Town integrated with Crawley Down and Felbridge, Town should grow, Unique, Unpolluted, Well planned (all one each).*

#### 4. What are the best things about East Grinstead, from your point of view?

##### **Environment**

*Surrounding area/Access to countryside (77); Historic/Pleasant High Street (51); Historic town/Heritage (32); Historic houses/buildings (30); East Court (13); Rural atmosphere (11); Ashdown Forest (8); Market/Country town (7); Sackville College (7); Plants and flowers (5); Attractive town (4); Parks/Green open spaces (4); County walks (3); Peace and quiet (3); Clean (2); Imberhorne Farmland (2); Local AONB sites (2); No soulless shopping mall/Not a major shopping centre (2); Character, Charm, Clean and well looked after, East Court is a valuable open space, Good air quality, Nice residential areas, No big stores, Old charm, Parks and recreational grounds, St Swithun's Church, The Old Convent, The woods, Weirwood Reservoir (all one each).*

##### **Facilities**

*Chequer Mead (34); Convenient for London (25); Location (19); Shops (16); Convenient for the coast (15); Good schools (15); Queen Victoria Hospital (15); Sports facilities (12); Good selection of unusual/private-owned shops (10); Leisure centre/Recreational facilities (8); Cinema (7); Adult education centre (6); Good facilities (5); Kings Centre (5); Restaurants and food outlets (5); Convenient for Gatwick (4); Worth Way nature trail (4); Close to many amenities (3); Bookshops (2); Farmers market (2); Forest Way (2); Kings Centre (2); Night life (2); Pubs (2); Access to Worth Way, Amenity tip, Bluebell Railway, BMX track, Continental food shop, Convenient for Tunbridge Wells, Cycle routes, Fitness club, Food outlets/clubs bring lots of people to the town, Food restaurants provide meeting places for young people, Forest Way cycleway, Good access to shops, Good facilities for the elderly to socialise, Good housing, Good medical facilities, Good night life for teenagers, Good range of eating places, Lots of bars and pubs, Mount Noddy facilities, Museum, Music shop, Rugby club, Secondary schools, Supermarket, Town market, Yoga classes (all one each).*

##### **Services**

*Library (35); Hospital (3); Medical care (2); Taxi services (2); Fire station, Notice boards, Services for elderly and disabled, Street cleaning people (all one each).*

##### **Community**

*Community spirit (31); Friendly people (29); Social groups and organisations (15); Safe (5); Churches (3); Town with character (3); Friendly shop staff (2); Good social mix (2); Safer than Crawley (2); Voluntary activities allowing residents to contribute (2); Caring community, Caring Town Council, Educated and civilised people, Lack of vandalism, Lively, Schools' community role, Unique (all one each).*

##### **Development**

*Small/compact town (46); Attractive to tourists, Independence from neighbouring towns, Local employment (all one each).*

5. **What are the worst things about East Grinstead, which make it not a good place to be?**

**Traffic**

*Traffic congestion (69); Traffic volume (28); Dangerous road system (2); Heavy traffic in town (2); Dangerous one-way system, Ineffective traffic calming measures, Speed and volume of local traffic in residential areas, Terrible road system (all one each).*

**Community**

*Vandalism (46); Antisocial behaviour (26); Too much late night drinking (6); Too many alcohol outlets (5); Centre unsafe at night/Late night safety (4); Drugs (3); Inadequate support from WSCC (2); Scientology (2); Too many retirement homes (2); Apathy of residents, Councils do not listen to residents, Decisions made a District and County level, Drinking problem, Few social activities, Ineffective council, Inefficient local government, Lack of community spirit, Old fashioned, Petty crime, Political decisions not made locally, Small variety of activities, The Base attracts bad elements to town, Too far from County Town, Too many do-gooders and liberals, Too many old people, Too many people do not fit in fully, Too many travellers, Town Council, Town Council mismanagement, Violence (all one each).*

**Environment**

*Litter (38); Run down areas (15); Too many fast food places (10); Ugly new buildings (8); Empty shops (7); Too many eating/drinking places (5); Too many pub/clubs (5); Vacant offices (5); Chewing gum on pavements (3); Constant road works (3); Queens Road/West Street/Railway Approach (2); Queens Walk (2); Sex Shop (2); Shabby appearance (2); The Atrium (2); Too many banks building societies and charity shops (2); Aircraft noise, Cinema/entertainments building, Dirty and unkempt, General dirty appearance, Graffiti, Industry, Lack of trees, Light pollution, Litter and graffiti in and around station, Night clubs, Rubbish everywhere, Soulless, State of old building in the High street, Too many estate agents, Too many signs, Too much advertising, Town is not pleasant to walk round, Traffic noise, Traffic pollution, Visually very unattractive, Walking along unhealthy congested roads (all one each).*

**Facilities**

*Lack of variety of shops/Lack of big shops (38); Lack of facilities/places to go for young people (12); Need to go to other towns for shopping (6); Need for another supermarket (2); No bowling alley (2); Poor public toilets (2); Railway station is a disgrace (2); Shops too expensive (2); Access by road, Children's play area lacks imagination, Lack of bike racks in town, Lack of cultural provision, Lack of dog walks, Lack of high quality stores, Lack of professional theatre, Lack of tea rooms, Lack of traditional small shops, Little to do in Felbridge area, Local Post Office has closed, No cinema, No greengrocer, No market, No public baby changing facilities, Not enough tennis courts, Not many places to go on Sunday (all one each).*

**Transport**

*Poor public transport (30); No rail connection to the south/east/west (13); Hospital transport (3); Inadequate/slow rail service to Croydon/London (3); Transport to Crawley/Gatwick (3); Discontinuing 400 bus route (2); Bus services in estates, Cycling dangerous, Difficult if you have not got a car, Difficult to get to sports facilities, Have to use car to get to sports facilities, Lack of cohesive transport planning, Lack of planned cycle and walkways, Lack of public transport to the coast, Need for small buses serving all parts of the town, No free travel for pensioners, Poor bus services to surrounding villages, Poor rail services especially at weekends (all one each).*

**Services**

*Lack of police presence (20); Poor street cleaning (20); Maintenance of roads and pavements (6); Overflowing litter bins (5); Decline in local hospital services (3); Roads need maintenance (2); Lack of local public services, Poor secondary schools, Poor TV reception (all one each).*

**Parking**

*Inadequate car parking (22); Expensive car parking (8); Illegal/antisocial parking (7); Inadequate and unsafe car parking at station (3); Inadequate car parking at hospital, Parking restrictions not enforced, Poor on-street parking provision, Traffic wardens (all one each).*

**Development**

*Impact of new development (5); Lack of affordable housing (5); Fear expansion (2); Fear large-scale development of town centre (2); High house prices (2); Not enough affordable housing (2); Constant pressure to expand town into Crawley, Demolition of old buildings, Destruction of historic buildings, Extravagant use of building materials, Factory sites being replaced by housing, Investment needed in station and station approach, Lack of coordinated planning, Lack of expenditure on the town, Lack of MSDC funding, Lack of tourism promotion, Lack of vision and imagination in development, Money wasted on town centre improvements, Nothing to attract tourists, Plan to pedestrianise town centre, Proposal to destroy the greenbelt for housing, Taxes must favour small businesses, Threat of too much development, Town expansion, Town split by A22 (all one each).*

**Pedestrians**

*Uneven pavements (2); Inadequate access and crossing places for the disabled, Lack of pedestrian priority, Poor access for prams (all one each).*

## **East Grinstead Healthcheck Age Concern Consultation: 18<sup>th</sup> February**

Alan Lord, Chairman  
Lorraine Scarratt, Organiser  
Various Age Concern Clients (5)

Age Concern East Grinstead has a membership of about 300 from a total elderly population of approx. 3000. The capacity of the Centre is about 40. The building is owned by the District Council who rent it to Age Concern. AC have recently been notified of a rent increase from £2,000 to almost £4,000. This is going to cause them great difficulties financially especially as they are also losing the Meals on Wheels Service which brought an income of £10,000. AC relies on grants from the DC/CC (Social Services) and on fundraising. It is under threat at present because of the loss of income.

Age Concern Offers day care activities, providing socialising, companionship, healthcare and respite care. It provides lunches twice a week, short mat bowls, Alzheimer's support group, day care, and other activities. It provides transport to and from the centre via EGBUS.

It needs to diversify but is limited by the current premises. The frail elderly are dependent on the services provided and are also reliant on EGBUS to get them to the centre.

Age Concern provides a service to the village around East Grinstead but again transport is a problem especially for the frail elderly.

Age Concern recognises that the numbers of elderly are increasing and that its facilities actually limit the amount of support and level of services that it can provide.

### **Vision for services for the elderly**

#### **1. *East Grinstead should offer older people the opportunity to live a healthier more rewarding life.***

The Age Concern services need to diversify, offer mental stimulation, IT facilities, art, cultural events. It needs to develop into a social centre for older people in the town. The emphasis of an integrated centre would be to provide for all the elderly but focusing on the active elderly and improving the quality of life for all older people. It should not have to focus on the frail elderly, as this is the responsibility of Social Services and the Health Services.

#### **2. *One stop shop for older people in the community providing all activities and services that they require.***

It should cater for individual needs rather than group needs.

#### **3. *An integrated centre should focus on promoting overall well-being by its numerous activities***

Many elderly people suffer from depression and loneliness. An integrated centre would help overcome these problems and reduce the burden on other services and on relatives.

Such a centre would require funding to help promote healthy lifestyles

Age Concern would like to develop hospital discharge packs – this is needed but Age Concern haven't the funds to do that now.

Age Concern needs core funding to support traditional services that the statutory sector seem to consider are there all the time. Age Concern receives referrals and expectations from the health services and social services (examples of hospital discharge office expecting Age Concern to provide 5 day a week day care.) Age Concern receives no funding from the Health Sector.

#### **4. *Any service or provision should be available to all, regardless of income. The point being made was that the services offered shouldn't be only for those on low incomes.***

Age Concern needs to have its own long term vision and so does the town. It needs to recognise that society is changing. There are a growing number of older people; the younger generations because of the high cost of living in the Southeast are more likely to be working than to be able to provide care services for elderly parents. We need also to recognise that expectations are growing amongst the existing population. The type of facility offered by the current Age Concern Day Centre will not be acceptable to future populations of elderly people.

Message: Be realistic about the percentage of elderly people in the community and provide for all of their diverse needs and activities. This will make a healthier, happier town.

Age Concern can't keep on struggling to survive. The whole town has to get behind it and help improve the offer to older people.

The need for a day care centre was recognised in the redevelopment plans for Railway Approach. Proposals for a 40 place day care centre were included on Downland Housing Development (Age Concern had asked to be included in the plans and an enlarged 100 place day care centre was requested). It seems that these plans have now been downgraded and the numbers of individual flats in the development have been increased. (This needs to be checked for accuracy).

Age Concern has started actively looking for replacement premises and developing their ideas for an improved centre for the elderly. Potential sites at East Court. This would have the advantage of integrating East Court more into the town activities as well as providing a purpose-built centre in a scenic setting. The other site mentioned has been the old Convent which is likely to be for sale and which already has rooms and kitchens to suit.

Age Concern would be keen to lead a bid that aimed to develop services for the elderly in the town. They have already undertaken some feasibility work on a new centre. They feel that they have limited time at the existing site because of its limitations and want to take the lead in developing better facilities and services that focus on well being and active retirement. Age Concern would need assistance with bid writing and the development of the project.

### **Quotes**

- Age Concern is wonderful
- I come here because I used to bring my mum and got to know people and now I've retired I help out
- You meet all sorts here and can have some very interesting conversations
- If we are still here in 3 years time then I think we should close
- I enjoy coming – the people are nice and it gets me out of the house.
- We need this in East Grinstead for people to meet and talk.
- I used to like East Grinstead when I first came here 30 years ago but it has changed so much. It used to be a quiet market town but now it isn't

## **East Grinstead Carers Group**

**25<sup>th</sup> 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.
- Charlwoods 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