

The first survey took place between 8th and 31st October.

Town Councillors manned stations at Wickendens, Queens Walk and Sainsburys, talking to passers by and filling in the surveys. Additionally surveys were handed out at the railway station on the morning of 7th October and the online survey has received a steady stream of responses. In total around 1500 surveys were handed out and 640 replies received. The presence of the councillors and the survey was advertised in the local newspaper during the three weeks of the survey and a banner was placed in the town centre. The website also carried the electronic link and a downloadable form for return.

The Survey asked how far certain statements were agreed with on 7 areas that will be expected to feature in the forthcoming plan. These areas were:

Fig 1

Statement Area	How Many indicated as Top Priority	Rank
Housing	54	5
Highways	135	2
Business Development	124	3
Leisure/ health	13	7
Environment	94	4
Town Centre regeneration	204	1
Sustainability	16	6

The final question was which one element is the most important to you. This was answered as shown in fig 1 column three shows the overall priority that this area should have in the plan. Overwhelmingly the statements were agreed with by responders as shown at fig 2.

Fig 2

Subject area	Strongly agree	agree	disagree	Strongly disagree
Housing	295	283	37	24
Highways	444	170	21	8
Business Development	476	159	8	3
Leisure/ health	292	283	55	3
Environment	458	173	7	5
Town Centre regeneration	506	125	11	3
Sustainability	226	287	46	29

Additional comments were added to the surveys and were written in separately, at this time, it is not possible to reproduce all of those comments on to the website although they centred around the following areas:

- Railway and Train services
- Infrastructure
- Pedestrianise the High Street
- Maintain the Green Belt
- Parking availability
- Sustainable transport eg trams
- Affordable housing
- Bringing derelict offices back in to use
- Car parking charges
- Traffic congestion
- The right type of retail to be encouraged (more clothing and less coffee shops)
- Speed limits
- Car Parking Zones

Comments have been copied to the members of the neighbourhood plan working group and the survey forms are available to anyone that would wish to see them by appointment at the Town Council Offices. It is hoped in time to reproduce all of the comments in a final report.

The Group have also written to the below groups collectively to ask for their views, with a request that the replies be made by the end of November. Some of the correspondents are in the process of compiling their response:

- East Grinstead Society
- Post Referendum Campaign
- EG and District Access Group
- The Old Convent Estate Residents Association
- Imberhorne Residents Association
- EG Business Association
- High Street Traders Association
- Parish Councils :-
- Forest Row
- Ashurst Wood
- Turners Hill
- West Hoathly
- Worth
- Dormansland
- Felbridge
- Lingfield

Their replies in full will be loaded to the website in due course, they are currently being compiled but will be made publically available from January.

The next stage of consultation will be early January and include some options and impacts.