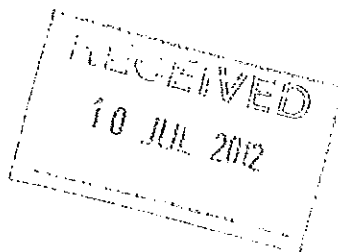




# Association of Imberhorne Residents

Association of Imberhorne Residents (AIR)  
C/o 135 Imberhorne Lane  
East Grinstead  
West Sussex  
RH19 1RP  
Tel. 01342 – 314416

Mrs Julie Holden  
East Grinstead Town Clerk  
East Grinstead Town Council  
East Court, College lane  
West Sussex  
RH19 3LT



9<sup>th</sup> July 2012

Dear Mrs Holden

## **Re: East Grinstead Housing and Infrastructure Development Survey**

Please find below the response of the Association of Imberhorne Residents (AIR) to the above referenced survey.

The public notification for this survey has been limited essentially to posters at random places around the town and is unlikely to derive the maximum number of respondents. We believe that in future the Council should use a more direct form of notification to the residents.

In order to ensure that as many AIR members as possible have the opportunity to respond to the survey AIR have distributed a reminder by electronic mail detailing the methods available for completing the document. We also plan to make available a number of blank survey forms with Chapmans Newsagents in Heathcote Drive for the convenience of our members.

We believe that much of the survey relates to matters of personal opinion or preference and as such our members will respond individually. There are however, a number of issues of a general nature on which AIR has clear opinions and are relevant to the survey

### **Infrastructure**

- **Road Network** - As of the time of writing we have not seen the WSCC document - Atkins 3 Traffic Management Study 2012 referenced in the survey. However, Public consultations in 1988 and 1990 concluded that the A22 and A264 roads are at full capacity for large parts of the day and significantly over capacity during peak periods. Car usage and traffic densities have continued to increase during the intervening years and we do not expect the Atkins report to identify quick solutions.

A consequence of the A22/A264 congestion is that the Imberhorne Area, in particular Imberhorne Lane and Heathcote Drive, has become the unofficial East Grinstead by-pass. We now have arterial road traffic densities on roads that were built for local residential purposes.

A patch and mend approach to the towns road infrastructure will not be adequate for the next 20 years and, as part of the plan, the Town Council must include the need for a relief road that diverts long distance traffic away from the town and reduce the local traffic density.

- **Parking** – There is insufficient town centre/railway station parking space to satisfy the needs of residents, commuters and visitors. The council is aware that parts of the Imberhorne Estate have become a free overflow area for the rail commuters and employees of local companies.  
The plan should address the provision of adequate and economic town centre/railway station parking to ensure that residential roads remain safe for their designated purpose.
- **Water Supply** – The south east of England has suffered a water deficit for over 24 months and several water companies have indicated a continuing programme of restrictions if the winter rains are less than normal. Despite the recent period of intense wet weather East Grinstead is among the last areas to be released from a hosepipe ban that had lasted for several months.  
The water for East Grinstead is provided by South East Water whose main source (75%) is from aquifers of finite capacity. We understand that apart from a new reservoir in north Kent there are no plans to increase the ground water storage capability and future growth is limited by the aquifer capacity. The plan should address how the area will be provided with adequate water for the next 20 years and planning permission for all but the smallest development should be withheld until legally binding commitments to that effect are in place.
- **Waste Water** – during the 2011 planning appeal against the Crest Nicholson development to the west of Imberhorne Lane, AIR had sight of a letter from Southern Water stating that their existing facilities were, at that time, inadequate for the proposed development. Clearly the plan must address the provision of such facilities to meet the future housing needs and be supported by legally binding agreements.
- **Refuse/Waste Management** – for some time WSCC has been warning that there is no long term capacity for landfill. Despite having provided excellent new facilities for handling and recycling waste an alternative to land fill will be needed in the next 20 years. Whichever technology is selected for future

waste management/processing it will impact local communities. The plan should address the options and locations for these facilities whilst addressing where additional housing will be built.

#### **Future Development Sites / Strategic Gaps**

- AIR hold the opinion that any future development should be within the town's current built up area boundary.
- The definition of the "built up area" as applied to Imberhorne Lane shall not include the proposed Crest Nicholson development for which planning consent was granted in 2011. The report issued by the Planning Inspector stated:  
"Allowing its release should not on its own account set a precedent for further housing development which, in any event, could only take place subject to suitable infrastructure provision being made."
- We are strongly opposed to any development to the west of Imberhorne Lane which we regard a part of a strategic gap/green lung for the benefit of the people of East Grinstead and adjacent villages. Ideally this land should be classified as a Country Park, Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace or future Green Belt thus protected from further development.

We trust that the above information is of interest to the Town Council and will be pleased to provide any clarification that you may require.

Please will you ensure that these observations are forwarded to those managing and analysing this survey.

Yours sincerely



Colin S Balaam  
Chairman of Association of Imberhorne Residents

cc.

Cllr Rex Whittaker

Cllr Peter Wyan

Cllr Heidi Brundsdon

Cllr Bob Mainstone

Mr. Edward Lightburn