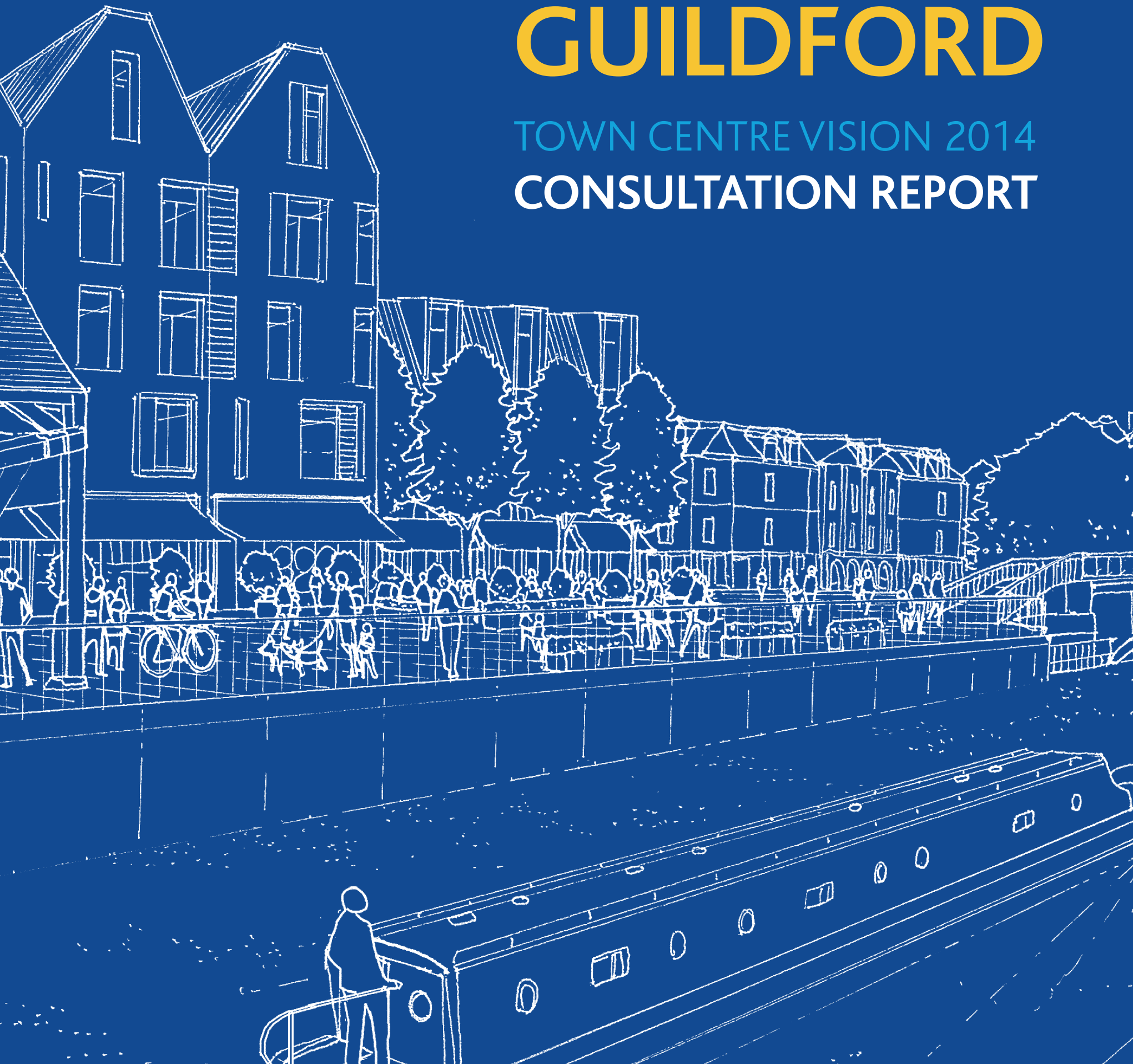


# GUILDFORD

## TOWN CENTRE VISION 2014 CONSULTATION REPORT







New Local Plan  
for Guildford borough

25 Swan Lane  
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# INTRODUCTION

## **This report sets out the results of consultation undertaken by Allies and Morrison Urban Practitioners on the Guildford Town Centre Vision**

An exhibition of the vision, key themes and masterplan was displayed in the Swan Lane project shop on Friday 25 July, Saturday 26 July and Friday 12th September 2014. The team attended these exhibition days in order to help answer queries and receive feedback on the document. A feedback form was also provided to record comments from residents and visitors and over 100 comments were received from members of the public.

Other opportunities for feedback included number of workshops with community members and stakeholders including:

- A stakeholder workshop on Thursday 7 August and Tuesday 9 September 2014;
- A public meeting with Guildford Vision Group on Wednesday 3 September 2014; and
- The Guildford Town Centre Vision Group seminar on Tuesday 8 July and Wednesday 30 July 2014.

Finally, a number of written representations were made on the Vision.

This report sets out the feedback received on the draft Guildford Town Centre Vision during stage two of the consultation process.





Photos taken at the exhibition presenting the Draft Guildford Town Centre Vision at Swan Lane on 25 and 26 July and 12 September



# THE 'BEST THING' TREE

The tree located outside the project shop helped to draw people into the exhibition and let them know there was something new happening. We asked members of the public 'what is the best thing about Guildford.....'

The tree received a positive reaction from members of the public walking along Swan Lane and provided an excellent way to introduce the consultation exhibition for the Guildford Town Centre Vision.

Over 100 tags were completed with a range of comments on 'the best thing about Guildford'. Ten or so themes received regular mention. The most popular comments were about the town's character and setting and in particular the historic high street. Comments were made about the quirky, varied and historic character, the setting of the town in the countryside and its qualities as a walkable town that has a 'sense of city'. The High Street was felt to be a particular asset for the town centre, along with its surrounding lanes.

Other comments included the excellent variety of transport facilities such as the buses and railway; open spaces and parks including the River Wey and the Castle grounds; cultural facilities such as the theatre; and the variety and range of shops. Many comments were also made about the friendliness of local people and the sense of community.

Please see Appendix 1 for a full list of comments.









# 'THE BEST THING ABOUT GUILDFORD IS....

“ The historic character - the cobbled high street and the clock ”

“ the intimate lanes and streets ”

“ the size of the town - it's walkable and quirky ”

“ the balance of shops, green space and good transport links - there is a great quality of life ”

“ the combination of town and countryside - its landscape setting ”



“ the riverside and the castle area ”

“ Feeding the ducks ”

“ the castle but  
it's hidden - people  
don't realise how  
lovely it is ”

“ the facilities and  
the people ”

“ The friendly people ”

“ the cobbled high street  
and range of shops ”

# KEY THEMES FROM THE SHOP

The responses on the feedback form received at Swan Lane have been reviewed and a series of high level themes identified.

## 1. The gyratory and vehicular traffic

Traffic is considered one of the most important issues facing the town centre, particularly the one-way gyratory system. The majority of respondents were supportive of the proposed reconfiguration of the gyratory system but were keen to see more extensive testing before any works are carried out. Key areas of concern included allowing sufficient space for queuing traffic waiting to cross Friary Bridge. Although many supported the idea to close Bridge Street due to the improvement in the street environment, there was concern about potential reduction in capacity for vehicles.

Some respondents suggested through traffic needs to be diverted away from the gyratory system in order to address congestions. It was highlighted that many through roads for the town converge at the gyratory. Comments outlined the potential for a bridge or bypass connection from Guildford Park Road to York Road roundabout which could help to improve this congestion. However, it was highlighted that any bridge should avoid existing attractive residential streets such as Lees Road and Guildford Park Road. It was suggested that North Street should remain two way to connect to a town centre bridge.

Many positive comments were received about the vision for Onslow Street but some concern was expressed about the reworking of the street and the implication this would have for congestion due to the lack of motorist priority, including the proposals for bus stops and shared surface.

“Great to see the gyratory being removed – Didn’t think we would be brave enough”

“If there is a new bridge to be built, it should avoid existing attractive residential streets”

“We need to ensure there is enough space for queuing traffic waiting to cross Friary Bridge”



“ Not enough attention has been given to the needs of bus passengers ”

“ The rail station improvement is a great idea along with having new people to live and come to Guildford ”

“ Bridge Street strikes me as a prime street to be pedestrianised, particularly if you can make a link to the riverfront here. ”

Specific comments were made about the phasing of traffic lights and key junction layouts to reconsider as detailed proposals come forward. These included the Walnut Tree Close area, the pedestrian crossing at Debenhams, the crossing at Farnham Road and the junction by of Bedford Road and Onslow Street.

## 2. Car parking

Car parking was regarded as an issue in terms of cost and the limited number of spaces available in the town centre. A number of solutions were suggested including a congestion charge, a drop-off point for a “glide and ride” river taxi and an underground car park within the town centre.

## 3. Guildford train station

The proposed improvements to the station were widely supported by respondents, including the aspiration for new flats in this location with public uses at the ground floor. Areas of concern included the height of any new development, an aspiration to maintain views of the cathedral, ease of access by vehicle to and from the station and the amount of car parking. Appropriate drop-off/pick-up zones at the train station also need to be identified. A station at Merrow was suggested as a possibility.

## 4. The bus station

The approach to bus stops on Onslow Street was broadly supported, with many people commenting that the bus station is currently neglected and unattractive. However, a few comments were

received which expressed concern about the removal of the bus station and the perceived issues that this would cause when changing buses. Concerns were raised about the lack of waiting shelters and facilities for bus drivers. Real time information was felt to be needed in the town centre, as well as a bus waiting area situated within the shopping centre.

Some people liked the idea of buses being moved to Onslow Street as it created a good connection with the train station. However, others felt that this was further from the town centre and may cause congestion issues.

## 5. Pedestrian and cycle facilities

The greater priority given to pedestrians and cyclists in the Vision has been welcomed in many of the responses received. The majority of comments support the proposal to close Bridge Street to cars and vehicles in order to provide a friendlier street environment for pedestrians and cycles. Other suggestions include an additional pedestrian bridge in the town centre, better disabled access throughout the town, a contraflow cycle route on North Street and that the town centre more widely should be more cycle friendly. The riverside should also have better walking and cycling paths.

A number of respondents suggested there is a need for new pedestrian/cycle bridges over the river, north of the station which would link the University to the cricket ground, and also within the town centre.

“ We need more smaller flats in Guildford. I want to “downsize” but not to a retirement home and I want to stay in the town centre ”

“ We need people living in the town centre ”

## 6. Housing

Generally the comments received supported the proposals for more housing in the town centre, particularly for smaller flats and affordable homes. A number of comments focused on the Walnut Tree Close area and supported this location for new homes but suggested that any new homes must have their own car parking space. It was suggested that heights of new homes should be consistent with the existing homes, and that flooding issues must be taken into account.

Other sites suggested for new homes including the Reservoir and Pewley Hill. One comment highlighted that appropriate infrastructure improvements need to be put in place in the town before the number of homes can increase.

## 7. Public realm and green space

There was a general consensus amongst respondents that there is a need for more public space in Guildford town centre and more street furniture and planting in existing streets. The majority of respondents agreed that opening up the River Wey would be of benefit to the town and one respondent cited Reading as an example of where this has worked well. Opportunities for outdoor eating and small public parks along the riverside were appreciated. Appropriate lighting was suggested along the riverbank.

It was suggested that the Cathedral should be more accessible and appear to be more central to the town. The children's playground south of the castle was also identified as being underused.





“ The Friary Centre draws people away from the High Street and indoors which is bad for the other shops ”

“ It is important that the roofscape of the town is improved ”

## 8. Retail

A number of comments made by members of the public were supportive of new retail development coming forward in a way that respects the existing character of the town, connects to the High Street and supports independent shops in the town centre. Some expressed concern about the Friary Centre vacant units and the fact that it draws people and activity off the High Street and indoors, having an adverse effect on the rest of town centre. It has been suggested that Debenhams is too large and on an inappropriate site and that a John Lewis would be beneficial for the town in order to compete with other centres.

## 9. Town centre character

A number of comments suggested that new development should reflect Guildford's existing character, for example the North Street area needs to reflect the character of the lanes which are one of Guildford's assets. Views across the town have also been identified as an important aspect which needs to be protected. It is important that the roofscape of the town is improved as there are many points at which this is visible from outside and within the town centre.

## 10. Other Comments

Other comments were made in support of the vision. Additional specific comments included supporting community facilities for the young and old, safety concerns in parts of the town centre at night and concerns about flooding.

Please see Appendix 2 for a full list of comments.



# GENERAL EVENTS

## Allies and Morrison Urban Practitioners attended a number of events held as part of the wider consultation on the Local Plan

These consultation events provided an opportunity to visit other parts of the borough and the events included:

- Guilfest on 18, 19 and 20 July 2014;
- Burpham on Tuesday 5 August 2014;
- Ash on Saturday 30 August 2014; and
- West Horsley on Monday 1st September 2014.

At these events the team were able to meet members of the public from across the borough and discuss the vision and any specific queries that were raised. Visitors were invited to fill in feedback forms to record their detailed comments. These comments will be included in a separate report as part of the Local Plan consultation.



Photos taken at Guilfest, one of the other events that was attended by Allies and Morrison Urban Practitioners



# OTHER REPRESENTATIONS

**A number of letters of representation were sent to Allies and Morrison Urban Practitioners. The key themes are summarised below.**

A number of suggestions were made in individual representations. These included;

- Protect the character of the high street and ensure that new architecture respects this and is designed at a human scale. New buildings must respect the scale and historic character of the existing town centre.
- Support for further work to improve traffic congestion and for modelling and testing of options such as removing the gyratory and the possibility of a new bridge.
- Detailed consideration of bus routes must be included in any plan if some roads are to be pedestrianised and some bus stops moved from their existing position.
- Transport infrastructure that would support further development in the town centre includes the possible third run-way at Heathrow, a rail link with Heathrow and new rail stations at Park Barn and Merrow.
- Homes for the ageing population and affordable homes for 'key-workers' should be provided in the town centre.
- New development should be sustainable.
- We should promote knowledge-based enterprises.
- Tourism should be encouraged in the town centre.
- There is a need to explore the economic and social developments of the town as well as the physical opportunities.

# CONCLUSION

## The feedback we have received from the general public has identified a number of key issues

It is understood that the Council may commence a Town Centre Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document. This would allow for testing and further work on a number of key issues which have emerged following the consultation exercise.

- More extensive technical traffic testing and modelling to explore options, to include testing of a possible bridge, bypass and the closing of Bridge Street to private vehicle traffic.
- More detailed testing at Guildford Train Station and the surrounding area to include addressing concerns about building heights, access and public realm.
- Careful planning for public transport infrastructure to ensure that bus stops are clustered to allow for easy interchange between routes and comfortable waiting facilities are provided.
- Review, identify and safeguard sites within the town centre identified in the Local Plan for housing.







# APPENDIX

Allies and Morrison Urban Practitioners is not responsible for nor shall be liable for the consequences of any use made of this Report other than that for which it was prepared by Allies and Morrison Urban Practitioners for the Client unless Allies and Morrison Urban Practitioners provides prior written authorisation for such other use and confirms in writing that the Report is suitable for it. It is acknowledged by the parties that this Report has been produced solely in accordance with the Client's brief and instructions and without any knowledge of or reference to any other parties' potential interests in or proposals for the Project.





# APPENDIX 1

## BEST THING TREE

Members of the public were asked ‘What is the best thing about Guildford?’ Their responses are below, organised by theme.

### Character

- Quirky “charactered” town centre
- The best bit of Guildford is when things fit into the historic town pattern
- Lovely historic character
- How old it is
- Individuality - A town with all the shops but still intimate
- The history
- The mix of the old and the new
- Protect the character of the town centre – It’s a lovely place to visit
- The lanes
- The historical character (old pubs, e.g. The Angel and Angel Gate)
- The cobbles
- The look of the town’s aesthetics - Cobbled High Street
- The historical character - Cobbled high street and clock

### Setting

- Really like the intimate lanes and streets
- The size - It’s not too big or too small
- A good size family town-family friendly for all ages
- Combination of town and countryside – Landscape setting
- Town in the countryside
- The town
- Good size town for mix of uses but not too big

- All the best bits of a city in a small town
- The size of the town centre – It’s walkable and quirky
- The countryside being very accessible
- The town is improving all the time...top of the high street (G Live) is wonderful now
- Good compact town
- 

### Public realm & green space

- The balance of shops, green space and good transport links – Gives a great quality of life
- The floral arrangements - All the hanging baskets
- The ambience - The buskers on the High Street
- The pedestrian friendly spaces
- The cobbled streets
- The River Wey is the best way to walk into town
- The river
- The paddling pool at Stoke Park
- Feeding the ducks
- The Alice Statue by the river and the Castle
- The theatre and the river area
- The lido
- The riverside and the castle area
- The river but it’s totally underused
- Have seen many changes in the last 4 years – Good new build, high street pavement improvements
- There is potential to improve but has everything – The river, the canal and green space
- Beautiful walk along the River Wey, which has been cleaned-up recently



## Facilities

- Good facilities
- Always things to do
- Schools are great and attract families into the town
- The playgrounds
- The castle grounds
- Rugby club
- The market and the cathedral
- The facilities and the people
- I like it all-particularly the new cafes
- It's got everything I need - pubs, links to London, climbing and leisure, countryside nearby
- Nice place to be with all sorts of things - University of 3rd Age (good facility for retired people)
- Good hotels

## Cultural facilities

- The Theatre
- Alive with history - Museum and Castle
- The University and the Cathedral
- The best thing about Guildford is Guildford Castle
- The Castle but it's hidden - People don't realise how lovely it is
- The Castle and festivals - The feel about the place
- Big enough to have a good cultural life
- The theatre and the restaurants
- The castle grounds – Very well kept

## Shopping

- Shops
- The shopping
- Great shops
- A few really nice shops
- Great variety of shops
- My uncle's shop - Nuro
- The best thing is the range of shops
- The shopping-High end offer - Excellent market
- Main shops on one street and secondary shops on another - Nicely compact
- The market and little independent shops
- The market on North Street - Especially Heidi's flower stall
- Heidi's flower stall
- Nice town centre with a good variety of shops
- Good range of shops – The little lanes are very attractive

## High street

- The cobbled High Street and range of shops
- The beautiful High Street
- Great High Street - Lovely to see it being repaired
- I love the High Street and the alley ways surrounding it
- The High Street and market - It has a lovely atmosphere
- Love the High Street without traffic
- Historic High Street
- Traditional High Street
- Unique character of the High Street - Surrounded by green views
- Beautiful high street

## Transportation & accessibility

- Great transport links
- The transport links (as a non-driver)
- Accessibility to London and airports
- Close to the airport - Easy to travel
- The train
- The park and ride - It's brilliant
- Living close to the town is very accessible
- Walkable place and very friendly
- Pedestrianisation – good to keep the cars out of the centre

## General comments

- This tree! I want this in my classroom
- The Boileroom (and other music)
- A great place to call home
- The friendly people
- The people
- It's got everything - There's so much here
- Love living here! (Traffic is an issue but every area has their problems)
- It's a charming place - Providing you ignore the traffic
- We are so lucky already, Guildford is a wonderful place
- It's simply a lovely place to live
- The vision is the council taking responsibility
- Friendly town
- It's like a mini London
- It feels central-there is a sense of community
- Nothing

- “Guildford is a happy town” – J. Cobbett
- It has got everything, very pretty place! Should have gone for the city title
- Should be a city status!
- The people
- Helpful and kind people
- Nice town



# APPENDIX 2

# COMMENTS

Members of the public were asked to make comments on the Vision. Their responses are below, organised by theme.

## Traffic

To make it work, the through traffic needs to be diverted away from the gyratory/Onslow Street. HGV's will go through the village e.g. Compton if prevented from Onslow Street. This way you can achieve shared space all the way from High Street to e.g. York Road. A new bridge and connections from Guildford Park Road to York Road roundabout will solve this and also improve the Farnham Road mini roundabout situation.

Major problem, please get rid of the cross town traffic and open up Guildford for people.

The road impact limitation depends on the way the new dual carriageway works. It will still be a major through route, unless there are dramatic additions to the road network elsewhere. Motorists will face a sharp lowering of their priority if the road is to be workable for pedestrians and the bus stops will place extra pressure restricting motorists. Much care consulting with affected people including those in Cranleigh etc. will be needed to avoid mistakes as bad as the gyratory system.

We need to address traffic through Walnut Tree Close area. Two sets of traffic lights by Debenhams and by Farnham Road mean no right of way coming out of Walnut Tree Close, this needs addressing.

The junction by the casino is very dangerous. Two pedestrians hit in a four hour period last weekend-something needs to be done here. The junction into the station needs improvement.

As you go down the towpath parallel to Walnut Tree Close (at B&Q) improve the towpath further out of Guildford (over old A3). Traffic is the big issue-Onslow Street visualisation looks great-at the moment it is horrible.

If there is a new bridge to be built, it should avoid existing attractive residential streets e.g. Lees Road and Guildford Park Road.

Need to ensure that there is enough space for queuing traffic waiting to cross Friary Bridge (if you get rid of the one way system) so traffic can get past the queue.

Re plan of the road network around Jamie's Restaurant is a great idea.

Need to get north-south traffic out of the town centre.

Worried about traffic on York Road with new Waitrose.

More traffic on Onslow roundabout - There is a need to consider in and out accessibility.

Guildford needs another bridge to get traffic out of the town.

Need to embrace the need to provide connections in all directions.

We need a sustainable starfish - Not a snake.

Leave North Street as a two way street for cars-works really well with the bridge.

Trust that the residential roads immediately outside of these proposals have been taken into account in terms of the impact of traffic etc.

Concerns regarding closing Bridge Street to cars without replacement capacity over the river. Would building a new bridge south of the town centre relieve town centre congestion? The congestion and queues are already very long and reducing the number of bridges seems likely to make this worse.

Need to do something about taking through traffic out of the town centre and deal with east-west traffic within the centre.

A bridge further out could help and work with central (traffic) Solutions - York Road to Walnut Tree Close or near the University. These might not work without it.

No direct links to the centre from the hospital. The traffic issue is terrible! It takes a long time for a short distance. It should not be

that difficult to get to the station.

Practicality of where the traffic goes, if you don't have a set out traffic plan. Query in relation to the number of houses without a plan in place.

Traffic is the main issue, Friday is the worst traffic. The one way system doesn't work.

Terrible issue with traffic around the gyratory system. There is a need for more walkways (more pedestrian ways). The bus station should be put near the rail station. Cars out of the centre.

Traffic is the big issue – Through traffic needs to be considered. There is also an issue that all roads go into Guildford which causes major traffic problems.

Ted talk - Jeff Speck - Walkable Cities “more roads rarely mean less traffic” it often just enables an already worsening problem.

Urbanized -Mayor of Chilean town, “Direct Democracy” - one person (car) has 100X less right to the road than say one hundred people (bus) thus less roads and a boosting of social status of public transport and cycling is integral to limiting the environmental impact of Guildford's road network as well as improving its functionality. How? Expansion of park and rides, improvement of bus stations/stops. Copenhagen style cycle way.

## **Gyratory**

Great to see the gyratory being removed – Didn't think we would be brave enough.

Looks very sensible - Gyratory approach is great but needs a bypass as well to take out throughtraffic.

Plans to reconfigure the gyratory are great.

It makes sense to get rid of the current situation, I like the approach to the gyratory.

Anything that gets rid of the one way system is great.

## **Parking**

A congestion charge for the town centre could be used against town centre parking.

A drop-off point for “glide and ride” - Easily accessible and exit from rather than having to go to the centre.

Parking issues including price - Should possibly build more spaces in an under ground car park.

Need more parking on the west side of the station with direct access to the platforms.

Need more and cheaper parking.

Concern about building on Guildford Park car park-landslip and busy/well used.

Car park at Beeyard Road – flooding issue.

The need for more car parking spaces and a reduction in charges should be dealt with.

## **Train station**

The proposed entrance to the station is very impressive.

Access to and from the station is horrendous, a particular problem is the lights to access the station from the eastern side of the gyratory - they clash with the pedestrian crossing which cause tail backs. Leaving the station is also impossible.

Wharfs at train station should be considered - Must be public uses at ground floor.

Great proposals for the station.

Ensure there are proper drop-off/pick-up zones at the train station. Bus station needs redeveloping-bus stops along street.

The station is dreadful. These plans are great. Need a direct train or bus to Heathrow.

The rail station improvement is a great idea along with having new



people to live and come to Guildford. Development at railway station is good but 14 storeys proposed is too high as the certain views like the cathedral need to be maintained.

Could a new bridge be incorporated into the new train station development?

Consider how much development can realistically fit in at train station - Is there room for a hotel car park, station buildings?

A station at Merrow could be a good idea.

### **Bus station**

The satisfactory operation of the bus stops will be challenging with crossing the road being required for many interchanging passengers. Much of the existing bus station works. Issue when pedestrians walk across the bus reversing area there are occasional serious problems. The neglected state of the bus station is more of a problem than its position.

Buses should go via the train station X3 the linear bus station in Bournemouth is a good example. \*(example of bus station sketch)

Examples - Greenwich shuttle bus, Guildford should have one.

Where will bus drivers have to rest? If you have no bus station there will be no facilities for bus drivers. Where will people wait?

Get rid of the bus station it is so ugly.

Not enough attention has been given to the needs of bus passengers.

The bus station needs lots of undercover space for people to wait in warmth and shelter.

Bus station is an eyesore but Guildford also has some lovely buildings.

Concern that the bus stops along Onslow Street might lead to continuous row of buses on the street. This is a good plan, looking forward to seeing it come to life!

Bus stations are not attractive. Like the approach at bus stops on

Onslow Street. Good connection with the station important.

Could there be a bus waiting area in the shopping centre? Look out onto the street bus stops. Real time information e.g. Grimsby Town Centre.

Need a comfortable waiting room for bus passengers. Enclosed with real time information - Example of Linkoping, Sweden.

The bus service needs to be taken into consideration. The people usually use the buses for the hospital and neighbouring towns, not the rail station. An issue with the proposed bus change is that it would be further away from the shops. Have to consider a strategy that facilitates all people to all areas. Find out where people using buses need to get to.

Issues regarding the changes proposed to the bus station – Good example is Bath and Brisbane (bus goes underground – shops and services, hidden out of sight and not occupying space above ground). There is a need to consider a good bus service for the people.

Removing the bus station would be disastrous. By all means improve it but spreading buses around the town is asking for trouble.

The only concern is the bus station proposal, for example its strategy i.e. example of getting to the hospital.

### **Pedestrian and cycle facilities**

I think Bridge Street carries too much traffic for this to be pedestrianised without a negative impact.

Need to get more people out of their cars and onto bikes and walking.

Space parallel to North Street should be cycling in both directions. Make every street cycle friendly in both directions.

More pedestrian and cycle bridges-including at Walnut Tree Close. More cycle routes along the river - don't clash with new uses at The Billings.

Need a new pedestrian/cycle bridge over the river north of the station - Link the University to the cricket ground?

Can North Street be fully pedestrianised? Need to improve accessibility for people with disabilities. Need to prevent accidents. The proposals for Bridge Street are good.

Need a solid tarmac path for cyclists along the river corridor

The bridge south of the centre should be cycle friendly.

Bridge Street strikes me as a prime street to be pedestrianised, particularly if you can make a link to the riverfront here.

Cycling issues must be addressed.

Guildford is a divided town. We need more bridge links – Increase integration to tackle social and physical divide.

## Housing

Proposals for housing on Walnut Tree Close are fine-need to decant existing uses.

Need more smaller flats in Guildford “I want to downsize” but not to a retirement home. I want to stay in the town centre.

Reservoir and school sites at the end of Pewley Hill could be housing sites.

Concern about the heights of new development at Walnut Tree Close - 2/3 storeys.

New homes must have their own car parking.

Interest in Walnut Tree Close - Love living here near the river and shops. Like the idea of improved pedestrian bridge and replacement of Odeon car park.

Not a single person working in the Mango Store – Friary Shopping Centre, lives in Guildford. More affordable living – Mixed-use and sizes. Studio apartments over shops possibly, example Exeter. Affordability is the main issue. (Store Manager’s comment)

We need people living in the town centre.

Walnut Tree Close should be for housing. Sites which have been recently demolished are being advertised for commercial development.

Affordable housing is needed – A higher percentage is needed if those that are built – 70% at least.

The River Wey area has flooding issues, especially Walnut Tree Close area which must be addressed properly before any development takes place.

Infrastructure needs to be put in place before any increase to housing.

## Public realm & green space

We need the North Street area to reflect the character of the little lanes which are Guildford’s character.

The town need some more benches.

I have recently moved to Guildford and I miss outdoor eating. We need to make sure some of these projects come forward soon.

North Street development is going to have a massive impact on the south side of High Street and Tunsgate Square.

Appropriate lighting should be incorporated along the town centre riverbank.

Guildford’s new development would work best where they incorporate the historic foot print e.g. White Lion Walk and Tunsgate Square.

Would like to have a market - Support local farmers rather than shopping in Tesco - Market needs to be frequent and regular to draw trade.

The town needs more cultural activities. The Cathedral should be more accessible and feel more central to the town. Great to sort out the gyratory.

Would like to see emphasis on soft landscaping - Roof gardens etc.

There is a need for more open spaces. Use up the River Wey is a great idea – Reading is a good example



The town doesn't make enough use of the river area. The character of the town should also be protected.

Guildford needs to make use of the riverside.

The children's park on the castle grounds is underused - South of the castle.

## **Retail**

It is an excellent idea restoring the feel of High Street to the rest of the town. Stitches it back together.

Would like to see The Friary Centre go - It is empty these days.

The Friary Centre draws people away from the High Street and indoors-Bad for the other shops.

Debenhams needs to go- too big - Art gallery/studio instead? Public space by the river is really important.

We need to consider using some of the Debenhams site to create better capacity.

People who want to experience the town don't rush through. Want to support independent shops.

Need new retail units for independent shops.

John Lewis-into Debenhams we need more shops to compete with Kingston.

The Friary Court building by the river is awful.

## **Character**

Connecting views of North Street to bridges are very good.

It is important that the roofscape of the town is improved as many residents have views over the roofs of Guildford town. The materials of the roofs as well as what is put on the roofs are important.

Keeping the character of the town is important especially the brick build characteristic.

## **Other comments**

We need facilities for older people in the town centre where they are accessible - A few have been moved out of the centre recently.

Guildford should make provision for people with mental health needs. There used to be a facility at Farnham Road Hospital for a mental health user group (SARP) but this is no longer available. Mental health remains the "Cinderella" of the health service in Guildford-needs to change.

The Odeon cinema area is not safe at night.

We do not need a new cultural building in Guildford.

Need spaces for independent businesses which are affordable. Need spaces for young people. Do not gentrify the whole town centre.

Needs to positively embrace the flood risk and use this as an opportunity for integrated solutions as part of the urban fabric and buildings.

Continued support for community facilities - Protect the market.

There is a need for political vision and leadership to deliver this plan.

Great vision, we needed a holistic plan like this.

Extremely ambitious-very happy with it.

Love it.

Whatever happens, start something soon.

Very good especially the historic feel to the town - Good luck!

There is an issue of the lack of change – There have been talks about improvements to the town for years but not a lot has been done.

Bridge Street is a grim area.

The university should build on brownfield sites, not Greenfield.

