

## **Annex G 2 - Environment**

### **Environment Worksheet**

WORKSHEET EN1: CHARACTER AND VITALITY OF THE TOWN

<i>Sub-section 1: Description of the environmental features of the area</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maps or aerial photographs</li> <li>• Local knowledge</li> </ul>	<p>Q 1 Where is the town situated within the local landscape?</p>	<p>Dorking nestles in a narrow valley between the Greensand Hills to the south and the chalk hills of the North Downs; Ranmore and Box Hill. Glimpses of the Surrey Hills providing a dramatic backdrop to the day-to-day activities of the town. The spire of the parish church of St Martin’s slices through the panoramic views of Dorking and acts as a landmark for visitors and local people alike.</p> <p>It is in the heart of the Surrey Hills, an area of nationally important landscape. It was one of the first areas in England to be designated an 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty', thus recognizing the beauty of the landscape and (assuming this designation and protection continues) .It is the most wooded of the country's protected landscapes and one of the most diverse and varied.</p> <p>In Dorking, the Pippbrook once fuelled the old mill in Dorking and the stream still runs through the town passing next to a naturally filled lake that sits at the lowest point of the town with the largest green open space Meadowbank above it. The ancient Cotmandene provides the other major Green space with Rose Hill providing a smaller one. Schools still have their playing fields and just outside the core town area is The George V playing field, with the Bentsbrook stream running alongside. Woodland also sits just outside the core town area of The Nower Glory Woods, Devils Den and Deepdene Terrace.</p> <p>Large areas of land surrounding Dorking that are owned or managed by the National Trust, Woodlands Trust or Surrey Wildlife Trust. Box hill sits to the North East of Dorking with the River Mole wrapping itself around the base, and skirting Dorking, before it passes through historic stepping stones, an excellent example of a meander in Westhumble, and runs on to Leatherhead.</p> <p>The unique combination of chalk, south facing fields and the greensand resulted in England's largest vineyard, Denbies Wine Estate, the third largest privately owned vineyard in Europe being situated on the town’s edge. It is a major tourist attraction and was awarded South East Tourist Attraction of 2002”.</p>

		<p>So there is lots of accessible local land for the public to enjoy. The Schools still all have most of their grassed play areas. Dorking also has 2 golf clubs on its outskirts, Dorking Golf and Betchworth Park</p> <p>Dorking has the last remaining Pilgrim Father's house in West Street, it belonged to William Mullins who sailed to New Foundland in 1620 and is currently an antiques shop.</p> <p>Dorking is a market town in the best tradition of English rural towns, although its market and farmers market has declined considerably since it s heyday.</p> <p>Q - with the Local Development Framework and govt changes to land designation – will the AONB be properly conserved and managed for future generations to enjoy.</p> <p>Q Will the continuing decline of the market(s) impact on the feel of the town</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maps or aerial photographs</li> <li>• Local survey</li> </ul>	<p>Q 2 What are the distinctive features that define the limits of the town?</p> <p>For example, are there historic city walls, or a river or bypass?</p> <p>(Worksheets S5 Q6 and S6 Q6 also refer to environmental features and local distinctiveness).</p>	<p>A strip o the North Downs; Ranmore, White Downs, the southernmost edge of Denbies Vineyard and Boxhill define the northernmost limit of the core town area.</p> <p>The other sides are less easy to define as Dorking sits on a cross roads at the junction of the A24 (London to Worthing Road) and the A25 (Maidstone to Guildford Road).</p> <p>However the A24 runs around the southern side of the core town and the old Horsham Road linked to Vincent Lane almost delineates the 3<sup>rd</sup> side of the town when it detours to link back into the A25 at the end of West Street.</p> <p>There are 2 roundabouts along the A24 – both have a quartet of trees on them and one is about to have a nodal statue of a Cockerel installed.</p> <p>Many households that use the town are sited outside that core town area</p> <p>Dorking can be easily reached from the M25 at junctions 9 at Leatherhead and 8 at Reigate (approx. 15 minutes from Dorking).</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local survey</li> <li>• District Council (ask for: Conservation Areas, Local Plan, Design Statement, Tree Preservation Orders)</li> </ul>	<p>Q 3 Landmarks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Where are the town's natural environmental landmarks (for example, groups of trees, parkland, and nature areas)?</li> <li>b. Are they protected or well maintained?</li> </ol> <p>(Worksheets S5 Q6 and S6 Q6 also refer to environmental features and local distinctiveness).</p>	<p>Natural Landmarks:-</p> <p>Boxhill and Ranmore - Leith Hill to a lesser extent</p> <p>The green areas of – Meadowbank and Cotmandene</p> <p>The Pippbrook stream and Meadowbank pond</p> <p>The 2 roundabouts on the A24.</p> <p>The trees around the Pippbrook Council Offices with its beehive roofs protruding from the hillside</p> <p>The sandstone steep hillside that reaches into the back gardens of the south side of the high street.</p> <p>Green spaces in the town, Meadowbank with its pond, Cotmandene, Rose Hill, The Nower, The Glory Wood (and adjacent Devil's Den and Deepdene Terrace) maintained by the council through its contracted provider – Burleys. The cutting of grass could be more often and better controlled – the spring cut was more mashed than cut and left in heaps resting on uncut taller grasses. IN 2006 Cotmandene was left uncut with just the paths cut through it and the area under the washing lines.</p> <p>This has created a lot of discussion – is it right or not to remove it from kids play areas and give it over to butterflies and bugs!</p> <p>The wealth of green wooded area and fields outside.</p> <p>Street landmarks:-</p> <p>The historic “Pump Corner”</p> <p>The raised pavements in the southern side of the High Street and out along the Horsham Road.</p> <p>The railings on the pavement areas were recently painted but are not done very often.</p> <p>Its variety of mostly Victorian style shop fronts.</p> <p>(The toilets – Private one in Martins Walks and South Street (closed to be rebuilt))</p> <p>The war memorial in South Street.</p> <p>The statues around Dorking Halls.</p> <p>The White Horse Hotel – with cobbles outside in the centre of the High Street.</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Wildlife Trust</li> <li>• Local Biodiversity Action Plan</li> </ul>	<p>Q 4 Biodiversity:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. What areas are important for local biodiversity?</li> <li>b. What measures are in place to protect or enhance them?</li> </ol> <p><i>Consider, for example, bats, great crested newts, badgers, rare plants, insects or birds on the red list, or specific habitats.</i></p>	<p>Within the Town:-</p> <p>The area around the Meadow Bank pond has high levels of biodiversity with both water and wildfowl. Swans which were missing for a while came back this spring. There is a thriving colony of Bats that fly around the pond and appear to roost in Rothes Road. There are town Foxes, a Buzzard and Sparrow Hawks operating in the gardens and Deer come off Ranmore into that side of the town.</p> <p>The Rose Hill area is unusual as it is like a small field within a circle of housing. The cropping by sheep tends to lower the levels of biodiversity.</p> <p>The ancient Cotmandene grassed area has been grassed common land for centuries and practically leads into Deepdene Terrace, Glory Wood and Devil's Den, and The Nower sit on the south western side of the town providing another green area well utilised by the public. In 2006 Cotmandene was left uncut – something not done for over 24 years. MV Council says this was at the same cost as cutting it because the areas under the washing lines and the paths across it were cut. Creating this level of biodiversity has caused a lot of pro and con comments.</p> <p>Surrounding the town are The Surrey Hills, established by a Joint Advisory Committee in 1998 under the encouragement of the Countryside Agency. It is one of the most wooded of AONBs with 40% of woodland cover – the adjacent Surrey Hill areas are Ranmore and Boxhill, with Leith Hill to the south western side of Dorking.</p> <p>Ranmore's Denbies Hillside (the first field now renamed Steers Field) offers 744 acres of wood and downland. Ranmore has chalk liking plants such as Columbine and Nettle-leaved Bellflower, it also has areas of orchids including the Early Purple and Purple Spotted and the rarer Man and Bee Orchids. Butterflies and moths abound from the widespread Meadow Brown to the rarer Purple Hairstreak, White Admiral, Silver Spotted Skipper and the Straw</p>
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	<p>Bell Moth. It is a core site in Surrey for the Adonis Blue. The chalk hillside sits below ancient woodlands that fill with bluebells in the spring.</p> <p>The Natural Trust manage the important chalk grasslands of Ranmore and Boxhill which are just 1% of the ANOB. The National Trust has used rare breeds of Soay Sheep and Exmoor ponies to crop the grass.</p> <p>Box Hill is named after the native Box and Yew trees that provide a native habitat for the rare Box Shield But and the steeper slopes provide a conservation site of European Importance. Beeches and Oaks provide mature tree cover and the hill provides a good range of birds, orchids and other grassland flowers which include the horseshoe vetch, birds foot trefoil, hairy violet and cowslip. Two thirds of the British Butterfly species have been recorded on Box Hill! It is a well visited site because refreshments and parking are nearby to a superb view.</p> <p>Leith Hill – is topped by a tower to mark the highest point in the SE of 967 feet. It has completely different trees to the other side of the valley due to its acid, free draining soil of Wealden Greensand, which support Oak, Birch and Scots Pines and are</p> <p>The river mole has many varieties of animals and wildlife that are well looked after by the NT and conservation volunteers. Its famous stepping stones allow walkers to continue on the North Downs way without discourse to finding a bridge. At times of low flow the river disappears below ground into “swallow holes” to emerge again further down stream. Its flood plain is an important area of habitat and should not be intruded upon.</p> <p>Areas not managed by the National Trust are looked after by the Surrey Wildlife Trust who have produced booklets on a variety of biodiversity plants and animals.</p> <p>Problems?</p>
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		<p>The NT has put sheep and cattle on Ranmore unattended which may not be right to sustain the diversity of wildlife. Thorn bushes are intruding onto the hillside that were not there 20 years ago.</p> <p>Cotmandene being left has caused a lot of anti comments, letters in the press led to some pro ones... what to do? Can we leave some and cut some?</p> <p>Back gardens sustain micro areas of biodiversity – the minimisation of garden size could impacts on the ability to sustain any biodiversity</p> <p>There are major “rambler” walks crossing the town:          The North Downs Way, marked by yellow acorn signs follows the Chalk scarp to the North Downs.          The Greensand Way runs parallel from beyond Leith Hill before turning in and running through the town itself.          The Mole Gap Trail, marked by silver arrows, runs from Leatherhead, roughly following the route of the Mole to Dorking Station.          The route of the Pilgrims Way the Winchester to Canterbury Route to homage Becket following his murder in 1170, allegedly ran below Ranmore. It was actually defined at the beginning of the 18 century by the first governor of Ordnance Survey, so it may not be in the right position and some is under tarmac.</p>
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Sub-section 2: Built features of the town		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maps</li> <li>• Aerial photographs</li> <li>• Local knowledge</li> </ul>	<p>Q 5 What is the shape and density of the town (that is, are buildings clustered together, dispersed or a mixture)?</p> <p>(Worksheets EC6 Q1; EC7 Q18; S2, S3 Q11;S5 Q8 and S6 Q1&amp; 3 also refer to the built environment).</p>	<p>The town is irregular in shape.</p> <p>The town is generally quite densely packed. It has streets of terraced properties near to the High street, and larger semi and detached properties as you go out from the High Street. The High Street offers a range of small to medium sized shops many of which are Victorian, most of which have accommodation above. There are a few large chain Store shops such as Woolworths, Sainsbury's and Waitrose, but most shops tend to be small and have retained shop front not that dissimilar to their originals. There are some very old properties in the town sympathetically still operating as shops. The central triangle, between South and West Street is very dense with little green space or gardens behind the premises.</p> <p>New properties are in-filling with flats sometimes without any parking provision. Parking on side roads is prevalent</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• District Council (ask for: Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, Local Plans)</li> <li>• Town Design Statement</li> <li>• Local history group</li> <li>• Tourist Information</li> </ul>	<p>Q 6 Where are the town's distinctive built landmarks and conservation areas, and are they are in good condition?</p> <p>(Worksheet S6 Q6 also refers to local distinctiveness. Worksheets EC6 Q1; EC7 Q18; S2, S3 Q11;S5 Q8 and S6 Q1&amp; 3 also refer to the built environment).</p>	<p>Conservation areas are defined by the Local Plan – soon to be superseded by the Local Development Framework, but that element of the original the document will remain within the framework. The Council strictly controls development within conservation areas, but things like 'wheelie bins' continually outside the houses detract from their elegant nature.</p> <p>For hundreds of years Dorking has provided the focus and setting for the activities of townspeople and villagers from surrounding communities pulling them in to the Market. The market is still a landmark but is a shadow of its former self, and located in a back street position, with a very standard offering of stalls.</p> <p>The fabric of Dorking's streets and buildings give the town its special identity</p>

Office	<p>and sense of place and history, and have led it to quadruple in size since the 1870s. Its raised pavements in the High Street and South Street together with the pump at the corner of West and South Street are original historic features.</p> <p>The Council offices, Dorking Halls and the Sports Centre provide newer landmarks towards the other end of the town and the Cockerel on the Deepdene Roundabout will create a talking point when it is installed.</p> <p>A hidden landmark are the Dorking Caves, which were carved out of the greensand. Their inelegant entrance is hardly noticed beside the War Memorial – only open on one Sunday of the month and on Heritage Days.</p> <p>West Street was a centre for the Antique trade but as owners retire alternative trades have arrived and this has diluted one reason why people came to Dorking! West Street houses the only run down building in the town - the Fire Station owned by SCC, which is expected to be sold for housing land.</p> <p>Problems? The traditional and farmers markets are lost in their current position and are no longer central features to the town. Should this be moved?</p> <p>The historic cave is unmarked and unnoticed.</p> <p>Fit of ancient to modern! Whellie Bins and other modern structures could detract in conservation areas. Nb. the newly proposed mini-recycle bins will be trailed as versions that will fit in. A new toilet is proposed which may or may not fit in!</p> <p>The loss of antique shops is changing the town. National papers called it “Dull Dorking”.</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• District Council</li> </ul>	<p>Q 7 Development:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. What are the areas where there are rundown or derelict buildings needing repair or restoration?</li> <li>b. What plans are there to revitalise or redevelop these areas/buildings?</li> </ol> <p>(Worksheets EC6 Q1; EC7 Q18; S2, S3 Q11; S5 Q8 and S6 Q1&amp; 3 also refer to the built environment. Worksheets EC6 Q1,8,9; S2; S5 Q10 and T1 Q3 also refer to development)</p>	<p>Only very small areas exist of run down properties.</p> <p>The industrial estate off Vincent Road is not as neat and tidy as it could be, but they suit their purpose.</p> <p>Only isolated buildings are in need of repair. The Fire Station is the most obvious of these and it is owned by SCC who seem to change their mind about what to do with it daily – it is due to be sold and is not listed, but is of historic interest. It may become housing.</p> <p>The Drill Hall with its under-floor rifle range is another building at risk of sale by SCC. Little Dudley House – which has been a succession of restaurants is currently up for sale as are both areas of Mays Garage, all are likely to be converted into housing.</p> <p>There is one very underused building – The Pavilion on Meadowbank. Now mostly only used for Cricket it has potential of being a useful centre for youth.</p> <p>The Mulberry centre does not provide what the youth want and there is real potential here to put something in that they do want and keep them away from the centre of the town in a very controllable area, which only impacts on a few nearby houses.</p> <p>It is accepted that getting staff to be the appropriate adult that runs centres for youth is problematic,. But the usage of the Pavilion and Mulberry Centre providing what the youth want 7 days a week needs to be examined.</p> <p>The Planning Committee is worried about so much housing squeezing into the town, but equally protect the green belt... a dilemma that will eventually reach breaking point.</p>
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		<p>How do you fit 171 houses a year into Mole Valley – where is the land?          Problem – with so much employment land being made into housing will the town lose its vibrant centre?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>District Council (ask for Local Plan proposal map)</li> </ul>	<p>Q 8 What is the range of uses of buildings in the town?</p> <p><i>Are they, for example, for shopping, for housing, or used to provide employment?</i></p> <p>(Worksheets EC6 Q1; EC7 Q18; S2, S3 Q11; S5 Q8 and S6 Q1&amp; 3 also refer to the built environment)</p>	<p>Mixed retail, service industry and housing.          Shops have flats or offices above.          Few very large shops.</p> <p>On the outskirts 3 larger employment buildings are insurance and Kuoni (holiday travel). The Highways agency has the only office block, which is down by the station. And opposite to that is Ashcombe School the most visible and largest school in Dorking.          Denbies Vineyard with its extensive vineyard provides a major tourist attraction.</p> <p>Industrial building tend to be on the western side of the town and in areas designated for them. Most isolated industrial workshops, surrounded by housing have or will be made into housing themselves.</p> <p>The Sports centre offers basic gym arrangements and swimming.          Dorking Tennis Club offers private tennis and squash.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local survey</li> <li>Town Design Statements</li> </ul>	<p>Q 9 Are the main routes into the town, including those from train and bus stations, attractive and in good condition?</p>	<p>Routes in and out of town are the responsibility of Surrey Highways and are in reasonable repair, but some road surfaces need patching or resurfacing.          Rural roads are in a far worse state.</p> <p>The A24 between Deepdene and North Holmwood roundabouts needs resurfacing and newly installed lights need to be made live. Section around Chart Lane South is on a list!</p> <p>Verges are in reasonable repair but with only 5 cuts a year grass can easily get out of hand. The central flowerbed from the Station to Deepdene Roundabout is generally in need of weeding, and plants do tend to grow along the kerbs due to lack of effective road sweeping.</p>

		<p>With drought conditions in place (2006) MV councils maintenance contractor has the ability to abstract 20cubic metres of water a day from the River Mole to water municipal flower beds and baskets in and around the towns. Most plant displays are near to roads.</p> <p>There is no bus station and bus services are underused and limited. The bus shelter at Dorking Station was repaired in 2003, but gets vandalised. The surrounds of the bus stop in South Street could be improved and a toilet replacing the closed one would be useful.</p> <p>The train stations on the Reading line are unmanned and although cleaned almost daily look rundown. The main line station is in better repair, its car park is quite extensive but expensive at £4 a day and is rarely swept.</p> <p>Station Road which leads to Dorking West Station is in an appalling state of repair, but it may be unadopted.</p> <p>Problem? Stations on the Reading Line need attention both on platforms and surrounds – Dorking Deepdene has rubbish thrown off the platform down the embankment that is never picked up Check on ownership of Station Road, to discover responsibility for repair.</p> <p>Continually parked cars make road sweeping difficult, a team of hand sweepers are needed especially as parking on side roads becomes more prevalent.</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local survey</li> <li>Town Design Statements</li> </ul>	<p>Q 10 Are the main pedestrian routes between car parks and the town centre attractive, well maintained, well lit, and safe to use (for example, with security CCTV cameras in use) both day and night?</p> <p>(Worksheets EC7 Q13,14 and T1;T2 &amp; T3 also refer to pedestrian access)</p>	<p>Pedestrian routes could be better. They are not often hand swept and they are not that attractive.</p> <p>There are plans to improve the route to the Sainsbury's Car Park from the High Street with an ornamental arch.</p> <p>The footpath beside Robert Dyas could also be enhanced, the plants are cut back once a year.</p> <p>Various plans have been put forward to improve the external appearance of the buildings that border the alley from the High Street to St Martins Churchyard.</p> <p>Bollards to the raised area of High Street footpath were painted last year. Lighting of alleys could be improved.</p> <p>There are some CCTV cameras in the town, a few more are planned for Meadow Bank area. CCTV are controlled from Reigate and can be manipulated to rotate and see in 360%.</p> <p>There is some graffiti but it is done by a small group of youths and when discovered cleaned up by a council hit squad asap.</p> <p>Problems – general untidiness and tiredness needs attention, Lighting needs improvement A FULL survey of lighting needs and pavement surfaces might be useful.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local survey</li> <li>District Council</li> <li>Town Design Statements</li> </ul>	<p>Q 11 Are street fitting and fixtures in the town well located and in good condition?</p> <p><i>Look, for example, for cracked pavements, vandalised phone boxes, graffiti-covered walls, and</i></p>	<p>There could be better lighting in St Martins Walk and more CCTV could be useful – but that area may be redeveloped so no immediate action is best plan at the moment.</p> <p>Most lights in the High Street are working Most lights in the side alleys could be better – survey suggested</p> <p>Rubbish bins seem sufficient – there is a trial of mini recycle bins for waste to</p>

	<p><i>overflowing or insufficient waste bins.</i></p> <p>(Worksheets EC6 Q1; EC7 Q18; S2, S3 Q11;S5 Q8 and S6 Q1&amp; 3 also refer to the built environment. WorksheetsEC7 Q10,17,18; S3 Q7,11 also refer to environmental quality)</p>	<p>be tried out in Leatherhead and Dorking in Summer 2006</p> <p>The green BT boxes have had a tendency to get graffiti on them but there seems to be less done at the moment - MV has kits for graffiti removal available to local groups free of charge, and they have a hit squad who will remove graffiti as fast as possible – obscene or racist graffiti takes priority on removal.</p> <p>Christmas Lights are provided by a private company led by the shop keepers, softly supported by the chamber of commerce – its continued existence relies on donations - from the council, chamber of commerce and shops. This well liked and appreciated service is at risk. The public expect it to be supplied by the council but are believed to not be prepared to pay the £10K it costs per year to sustain it out of the rates.</p> <p>Pavement surface reasonable but not everywhere, there are no serious areas of disruption. West Streets pavements and surface are being improved throughout 2006. Suggest survey of pavements</p> <p>Potential for a few more chairs for elderly and youths to use.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local survey</li> <li>• Town Design Statements</li> </ul>	<p>Q 12 Which areas of the town are over-cluttered with signs, street furniture, advertising hoardings, etc?</p> <p>(Worksheets EC6 Q1; EC7 Q18; S2, S3 Q11;S5 Q8 and S6 Q1&amp; 3 also refer to the built environment. WorksheetsEC7 Q10,17,18; S3 Q7,11 also refer to environmental quality)</p>	<p>Temporary signage for events is placed on the railings in Vincent Lane (such flyposting is not controlled) which can be over cluttered, but people don't leave them up for long.</p> <p>There can be an over proliferation of signage at some times to promote shows, on lampposts etc but again it is temporary.</p> <p>There seem to be more road signs left by Highways but none are not needed.</p> <p>North Holmwood Roundabout has posts left from signs that were damaged – these damaged signs need repairing</p> <p>Outside the town on the ramblers routes, new oak signposts are gradually</p>

		<p>being installed which are in keeping with their surroundings.</p> <p>Signage off the A24 Old Horsham Road round town needs to be more obvious to make right turn.</p>
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Sub-section 3: Environmental issues for the town		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local survey</li> <li>District Council (ask for Local Plan and Town Design Statements)</li> </ul>	<p>Q 13 The town's environment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What are the environmental issues facing the town?</li> <li>What plans are there to deal with them?</li> </ol> <p><i>Look, for example, at flooding, air and noise pollution, etc.</i></p> <p>(WorksheetsEC7 Q10,17,18; S3 Q7,11 also refer to environmental quality)</p>	<p>Traffic jamming the High Street and parking for long periods on the side roads</p> <p>Recent parking charge rises pushed cars into Chart Lane North and now they stretch back right up to the first speed hump.</p> <p>Cars for the station users take the place of residents cars in Rothes and Hart Road.</p> <p>Lincoln Road now has signage to ensure at least half of the road is not used by Station Cars.</p> <p>But travel into town seems to be less busy than previously - or maybe people are going elsewhere or parking and walking more!</p> <p>The traffic survey shows potential to charge for parking on side roads – both residents and others</p> <p>Recent traffic survey acknowledged that there might be a need for formal residents parking and to increase charges for long stay in line with rises short stay. Parking charges as anticipated have moved day long parking into side streets</p> <p>Push to introduce ½ hr free parking in certain places.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local survey</li> <li>District Council (ask for Local Plan and Town Design Statements)-</li> </ul>	<p>Q 14 Brown field land:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What brown field land is available for building?</li> <li>Is this available land being considered in planning decisions?</li> </ol> <p>(WorksheetsEC7 Q10,17,18; S3 Q7,11 also refer to environmental</p>	<p>Brownfield sites are found as buildings are sold making a planning gain. All reserve sites in the soon to be replaced Local Plan have mostly been used up. New sites are not yet allocated for housing in the Local Development Framework – that element will be examined in 2007+</p> <p>Currently additional housing is found by windfall sites 171 are needed a year across Mole Valley until 2026 – without cutting into the green belt this will be difficult and new properties will have no gardens and in towns often no parking.</p> <p>Capability Survey being undertaken by Dorking Preservation Society to see</p>

	<p>quality. Worksheets EC6 Q1,8,9; S2; S5 Q10 and T1 Q3 also refer to development)</p>	<p>what they think the town can take. Survey could ask if people would prefer to see intense development in the towns or a slice of countryside allocated outside major villages.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• District Council conservation officer</li> <li>• Town Design Statement</li> </ul>	<p>Q 15 What townscape or heritage initiatives are there?</p> <p><i>Examples may include: Historic Economic Regeneration Scheme, Local Heritage Initiatives, and Conservation Areas.</i></p> <p>(Worksheets EC6 Q1; EC7 Q18; S2, S3 Q11;S5 Q8 and S6 Q1&amp; 3 also refer to the built environment)</p>	<p>Areas of Conservation in and around the town. Areas designated as Green belt totally surround the town. Areas of Natural Beauty overlay some of the areas of green belt. Box Hill escarpment is of European importance and the chalk hills of Ranmore are areas of special interest. Dorking is the heart of the Surrey Hills Initiative.</p> <p>Dorking has not been party to any regeneration scheme. North Holmwood has just been designated as a “deprived area”, based on the 2001 census figures, but is it not in the same high level of depravity as Hastings or Brighton. It has 2 tower blocks with other smaller blocks around it – some of the areas around those blocks could do with environmental improvement and new fences, but the council has no money to repair them and there is an intention of develop more affordable properties and improve the environment at the same time.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local planning office</li> <li>• Estate Agents</li> <li>• Local council Offices</li> </ul>	<p>Q15 What land and buildings that could help the town’s initiatives are available for purchase (and are they at affordable prices?</p> <p>(Worksheets EC6 Q1; EC7 Q18; S2, S3 Q11;S5 Q8 and S6 Q1&amp; 3 also refer to the built environment)</p>	<p>There is no unused land in Dorking that the public would be prepared to use for alternative uses.</p> <p>The Fire Station &amp; the Drill Hall site have potential for housing – They will not be “affordable” SCC will sell for as much as they can. The Drill Hall and rifle range should be retained if at all possible. The Fire Station has been the subject of lots of initiatives that have failed as SCC want to raise as much money as possible from the sale.</p>

SWOT

You need to consider what the information you have gathered tells you in the light of these questions:	Write your answers here. Base them on the information you have gathered:	Conclusion					
		It's a Fact	Strength	Weakness	Opportunity	Threat	Need more
Does the town make the most of its natural environmental features? If there are opportunities for improvements to areas, what/where are they?	<p>The town live with and accept its natural environmental features.</p> <p>Many people have dogs or walk</p> <p>Paths could be better signposted.</p> <p>Some people volunteer to look after the countryside</p> <p>Some never go into it</p>	X	X	X	X		
Does the town have vitality and character, and does it keep its distinctive buildings and streets in good repair and in use? If not, what could be improved?	<p>Character is maintained</p> <p>Buildings fronting the main high street are generally quite well kept up</p> <p>Side alleys, lighting and pavement surfaces could be improved</p> <p>It needs a new toilet in keeping with a conservation area and perhaps a café in the place of the old one!</p> <p>Some people feel that introducing a large supermarket will damage the vitality of the small traders in the town, but this could be an opportunity to improve it too</p>	X	X		X		X

<p>Are there any major environmental concerns are being addressed and planned for? Are there any gaps?</p>	<p>Parking on side roads is now reaching epidemic proportions. The increase of parking is not being balanced by the needs of the public, who see it as income generation not parking control.</p> <p>Developing housing units without parking in the town is not a good idea – parking in undercrofts should be encouraged.</p> <p>Police Presence is being increased – which is appreciated by the public The ability for police to remove drink from youths</p> <p>(Town ? Order) is encouraged but needs better policing which may or may not occur when the CCTV in Meadow Bank is installed.</p> <p>Police need to be stricter on drink/ youths – youth are running rings round them.</p>	<p>X</p> <p>X</p>			<p>X</p> <p>X</p> <p>X</p> <p>X</p>		
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## WORKSHEET EN2: THE TOWN & THE WIDER COUNTRYSIDE

Sub-section: Links between town and countryside		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maps or aerial photographs</li> <li>• Local survey</li> </ul>	<p>Q 1 What is the location and impact of any natural or man-made features such as rivers, canals, roads or railway lines that physically or visually link the town and country?</p> <p>(Worksheets EC6 Q1; EC7 Q18; S2, S3 Q11; S5 Q8 and S6 Q1&amp; 3 also refer to the built environment. Worksheets S5 Q6; S6 Q5 also refer to environmental features)</p>	<p>The two train lines originally had a major impact on bringing people to the town and countryside. The London line now mostly takes commuters into London. If there was a major incident in London, evacuation would include a shuttle of mainline trains to Dorking.</p> <p>The Reading: Tonbridge line is under used locally. Historically it was viewed as holding strategic importance for movement of troops. Some trains run into Gatwick but usually there is a need to change at Redhill, so driving is quicker. Few people come into Dorking on this line, it causes some noise disturbance so houses that back onto it, but they were all built after the line and the only presence is the bridge across the A24 and embankment.</p> <p>The 2 major roads crossing in the town showed the historic importance of Dorking in the past, now they tend to cause snarl ups at certain times of the day.</p> <p>Physically the A25 is dominant in that it runs down the High Street and weight of traffic disruption at some times. There is no alternative route around this without considerable cost and demolition of properties and bypassing towns causes problems as seen in Leatherhead.</p> <p>The Pippbrook Stream has more physical impact on Dorking than the River Mole. The River Mole is not suitable for water transportation.</p> <p>Although about 14 miles away the M25 has a major impact on the town – both for easy access and if it becomes closed for any reason, forcing traffic back onto the A24 and A25.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local survey</li> </ul>	<p>Q 2 Are there unique design elements found in both the town and the surrounding countryside?</p> <p><i>Look, for example, at distinctive local house types, local architectural detailing and use of local materials.</i></p> <p>(Worksheets EC6 Q1; EC7 Q18; S2, S3 Q11; S5 Q8 and S6 Q1&amp; 3 also refer to the built environment. Worksheet S6 Q5 also refers to local distinctiveness)</p>	<p>There is no one dominant style. However, the conservation areas are mostly red brick Victorian semi-detached properties and the High Street tends to have double floors above Edwardian /Victorian style shop fronts. There is one 1930s substantial building in the town centre and the High Street is Dominated by the White Horse Hotel which is a hotchpotch of design but mostly white and beamed!</p> <p>Red Brick was produced locally by Redlands in North Holmwood until the 70s. Flint was sometimes used as was a form of high iron content sandstone nodule, found in the natural clay and used in buildings mostly before 1900s.</p> <p>Some cobbles remain on the wider areas where parking is allowed on the high street, where the original market used to be located, before moving into a large car park that is now St Martins Walk and finally onto the top of the St Martins Car Park.</p> <p>Mole Valley's Beehive live Pippbrook Council Offices are very unusual being mostly underground/ built into a slope. In South Holmwood there are 2 Lutyens Properties another larger one is in Friday Street.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local survey</li> <li>Local Tourist Board</li> <li>Maps</li> </ul>	<p>Q 3 What are the memorable views either from the town to the countryside, or from the countryside to the town, and where can they be seen from?</p> <p>(Worksheet S6 Q5 also refers to local distinctiveness)</p>	<p>Boxhill viewing point has one of the best views in England and the best view of the wooded a Area of Natural Beauty down to the coast. Dorking can be viewed from the top of Steers Field on Ranmore and the views include Leith Hill Tower and stretch to the coast. The top of Cotmandene allows views down the valley with a mixture of roofs and spires framed by the hills. The hills surround and make many interesting and memorable views.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local knowledge</li> <li>• Local History Group</li> <li>• Local Tourist Board</li> <li>• Library</li> </ul>	<p>Q 4 What historic commercial links such as market halls, a corn exchange, mills, wharves, market squares between the town and country are still evident?</p> <p>(Worksheets EC6 Q1; EC7 Q18; S2, S3 Q11; S5 Q8 and S6 Q1&amp; 3 also refer to the built environment. Worksheet S6 Q5 also refers to local distinctiveness)</p>	<p>The only remaining hall from the market town past is the Oldfellows Hall, which is situated above a couple of shops but which now has a problem as it has no disabled access.</p> <p>There is an old mill in the Old London Road now used by a publishers.</p>
<p>Local survey</p>	<p>Q 5 Does the character of the surrounding countryside become less distinct the closer it gets to the town edge?</p> <p>(Worksheets S5 Q6; S6 Q5 also refer to environmental features. Worksheet S6 Q5 also refers to local distinctiveness)</p>	<p>The countryside retains its distinctiveness until it almost touches the rear gardens of residential or commercial properties.</p>

Sub-section: Countryside landscape character		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>County Council (ask for landscape character assessment)</li> </ul>	<p>Q 6 What are the unique characteristics of the local countryside?</p> <p><i>Look, for example, at farmed land, heath or moorland, open, small fields with hedgerows or dry stone walls, and traditional settlements.</i></p> <p>(Worksheets S5 Q6; S6 Q5 also refer to environmental features. Worksheet S6 Q5 also refers to local distinctiveness)</p>	<p>The local chalk hillsides are unique in Surrey, the adjacent greensand makes is doubly unusual.</p> <p>The River Mole is also a very unusual river, as it has swallow holes in dry weather where the river actually disappears into the chalk. The Mole also offers one of the best examples of a an oxbow lake in the UK ,just outside Dorking town in Westhumble.</p> <p>The Area is abundantly green with many mature woods and coppices. Fields still tend to be small and irregular with hedges harbouring local diversity.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>District Council (ask for Local Plan)</li> <li>County Council</li> <li>English Nature</li> <li>Local Wildlife Trust</li> </ul>	<p>Q 7 What areas are covered by national, regional or local landscape, conservation or wildlife designations such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Parks</li> <li>Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)</li> <li>RAMSAR</li> <li>Special Protection Areas</li> <li>Special Areas of Conservation</li> <li>National Nature Reserves (NNR)</li> <li>Local Nature Reserves (LNR)</li> <li>Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)</li> <li>Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation</li> </ul> <p>(Worksheet EC7 Q10,17,18; S3 Q7,11 also refer to environmental quality)</p>	<p>Most land beyond the urban areas are Green Belt. Dorking is also surrounded by AONB.</p> <p>Ranmore Common and the Mole Gap to Reigate Escarpment are designated a European Special Areas of Conservation.</p> <p>Some of the banks of the Mole are Nature Reserves but not around Dorking.</p> <p>There are 12 sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) wholly or partly within Mole Valley.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• District Council (ask for: Local Plans, Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, archaeologically important areas, Historic Parks and Gardens)</li> <li>• English Heritage</li> </ul>	<p>Q 8 Areas of historic importance:</p> <p>a. What areas of historic importance have concentrations of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listed Buildings</li> <li>• Conservation Areas</li> <li>• historic parkland</li> <li>• Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM)</li> <li>• Areas of Archaeological Importance</li> </ul> <p>b. What other areas of historic importance are there?</p> <p>(Worksheets EC6 Q1; EC7 Q18; S2, S3 Q11; S5 Q8 and S6 Q1&amp; 3 also refer to the built environment. Worksheets S5 Q6; S6 Q5 also refer to environmental features)</p>	<p>Mole Valley has:-</p> <p>28 Conservation areas 1000 listed buildings 27 Schedules Ancient Monuments and 5 Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest, as compiled by English Heritage.</p> <p>Dorking has 5 Conservation Areas, many with listed buildings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. High Street, South Street, West Street, Dene Street, and Junction Road. (the Y shape converging on pump corner – serpentine streets of changeable width and changes of level, medieval town centre Key building Mullins House 17C)</li> <li>2. Church Street, North Street, the streets north of High Street and West Street (narrow streets and pavements and mix of small businesses, tightly knit fabric, quiet area includes Spring Gardens 19C cottages around rectangular green)</li> <li>3. Howard Road, Arundel Road, Mount Street and Vincent Lane area. (19c housing in terraces)</li> <li>4. Rose Hill and Cotmandene (around central grassed areas on lower slopes of greensand hills – fine views over town some important buildings and Victorian arch to Rose Hill House)</li> <li>5. Wathen Road. (19C eclectic residential mix of styles.)</li> </ol>
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Sub-section: Countryside landscape quality, use & management		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• County Council</li> <li>• Dept for Environment, Food &amp; Rural Affairs (DEFRA). (Ask regional office)</li> </ul>	<p>Q 9 Land:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What are the proportions of agricultural land at Grade 1, 2 or 3a?</li> <li>Where are they?</li> </ol>	<p>Unknown – none within Dorking - some outside?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DEFRA for current schemes)</li> <li>• Environment Agency</li> <li>• County Council</li> </ul>	<p>Q 10 What areas of the countryside are being managed through national agri-environment schemes? Current schemes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Countryside Stewardship Scheme</li> <li>• Environmentally Sensitive Areas</li> <li>• Nitrate Sensitive Areas</li> <li>• Habitat Scheme</li> <li>• Moorland Scheme</li> <li>• Organic Aid Scheme</li> <li>• Countryside Access Scheme</li> </ul> <p>(Worksheet EC7 Q10,17,18; S3 Q7,11 also refer to environmental quality)</p>	<p>Unknown – is this valid within Dorking</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internet (local community network)</li> <li>• Library</li> <li>• Local Wildlife Trust</li> <li>• British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV)</li> </ul>	<p>Q 11 Groups:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How do community and voluntary groups participate in the management of the local countryside?</li> <li>How do they contribute to the town's and surrounding countryside's conservation?</li> </ol> <p>(Worksheets EC2 Q5; EC3 Q10; S4; S6 also refer to community involvement)</p>	<p>Volunteer Groups work with:- Surrey Wildlife Trust (includes British Trust for Volunteers), National Trust The Woodlands Trust on ground clearance etc.</p> <p>Parish Council lead litter picks in the nearby villages.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business directory</li> <li>• Local knowledge</li> </ul>	<p>Q 12 Is there a horticulture or market gardening industry on the outskirts of the town which supplies the town markets?</p> <p><i>If yes, identify proportionally how much they do supply.</i></p> <p>(Worksheets EC2 Q2,3; EC5; also refer to land-based industries)</p>	<p>The Farmers Market sell local produce and there is a small Surrey Produce Shop in Dorking High Street. Norbury Blue is produced locally and sold across Surrey and the SE.</p> <p>There is a garden centres on the edge of Dorking and one slightly further out in Betchworth, they sell locally but most product does tend to be bought in.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil Association (look at organic farmers and growers)</li> <li>• Linking Environment and Farming (LEAF)</li> </ul>	<p>Q 13 How many local agricultural or horticultural produce businesses are certified organic producers or members of other environmental standards schemes?</p> <p>(Worksheets EC2 Q2,3; EC5; also refer to land-based industries. Worksheets EC7 Q12; S5 Q9 also refer to food)</p>	<p>unknown</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>District Council Local Plan</li> </ul>	<p>Q 14 Changes: Are there plans for future major change on the urban edge? What are they and when are they planned for? What landscape impacts might they to have?</p> <p>Look, for example, at community forest land, etc.</p>	<p>No known major plans But major plan of new supermarket and redevelopment of underused pedestrian precinct is on the cards, which involves the sale of some council land to developers with replacement housing/rehousing implications</p>
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SWOT analysis

You need to consider what the information you have gathered tells you in the light of these questions:	Write your answers here. Base them on the information you have gathered:	Conclusion					
		It's a Fact	Strength	Weakness	Opportunity	Threat	Need more
Do the town and its surrounding countryside have established, strong links, and are these being maintained? If the links are weaker than they used to be, why is this?	There is potential to make stronger links – some residents do not use the town others only use it!		X		x		X
Looking at the quality of the surrounding countryside, its sensitive areas and its potential, are any areas in need of support/strengthening?	Needs consultation?	X					X

<p>What are the changes that are happening in the surrounding countryside and how well these are being managed? How can the market town help with these changes to management practices?</p>	<p>Anticipated changes are only in potential waste sites in the countryside. (incinerator at Capel etc) Little farm land is expected to become housing in the next 20 years or so.</p> <p>There is new UK waste legislation introduced in April 2006 that relates to the removal of waste (like plastic wrap and bags) from farmland. It can no longer be burned on site and can only be stored there for up to 12 months before it has to be removed for disposal/recycling by an authorised provider.</p> <p>The market town needs to be aware and needs to ensure its inhabitants respond to situations that are in/outside the town to voice their opinions. The use of the local paper can be useful, but can also draw people off course and away from really important issues by bringing up good copy activities rather than less “interesting” really important ones for the long term stability and economic vitality of the town.</p>						X
<p>What potential is there to increase the extent of community involvement in the management and conservation of the countryside?</p>	<p>Community Involvement is higher than civic duty involvement. However in the town itself the community revolves around certain lynchpin locations that know what is going on by the flow through of people and chat! The Older community needs to have its voice heard more – as demonstrated by the Mayflower Centre situation. The Youth Voice is not shouting loud enough. The Town does not operate as a whole but as a lot of separate elements.</p>				X		

**WORKSHEET EN3: THE ENVIRONMENT AND QUALITY OF LIFE**

Sub-section: Environmental sustainability		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• District Council</li> <li>• Local community group</li> <li>• Charity schemes</li> </ul>	<p>Q 1 What opportunities are there for people to understand and become active in reducing or managing waste? Include sustainable waste management such as collection points, facilities and support offered, and consider local schemes to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• recycle</li> <li>re-use</li> <li>• produce bio-gas energy</li> <li>• compost organic waste</li> </ul> <p>(Worksheets EC2 Q5; EC3 Q10; S4; S6 also refer to community involvement)</p>	<p>Reuse is not that well promoted locally or nationally. Supermarkets do collect used bags if individuals bring them back in.</p> <p>MV have a recycle rate of about 35% and are the waste collection authority contracting to Biffa as their agent, who then take the waste to Sitta as the SCC disposal agent.</p> <p>All households have twin waste collections on alternate weeks (either in black and clear bags or in 120l or 240l wheelie bins). Because of this restricted collection system most houses do recycle – especially when it gets hot as bins smell.</p> <p>The green bin allows all households to easily collect all forms of paper and card, tins, clear plastic bottles and plastic milk bottles.</p> <p>The Council has run an ineffective campaign to encourage real nappy usage as this is one of the most bulky elements that go to landfill. Up to 100 people took entered into a one off discount real nappy scheme.</p> <p>As of June 2006 residents are able to pay £24 a year and have bi-weekly green waste collected from their home of a 240l Green bin with a brown lid.</p> <p>The Civic Amenity site on Ranmore has the potential to collect Household Waste, Green Waste, Glass, Rubble, Metal, Computer parts, batteries – individuals have to take the items to the site themselves.</p> <p>Assistance is on hand if you ask for it, but the site has steps up to the containers which are not easy to negotiate with heavy or difficult to hold items.</p> <p>Domestic solid Recycle Waste is taken to the MRF – then forwarded on to:</p>

	<p>Paper – 2 UK paper mills to become re-pulped for recycled paper. (70% of UK newsprint used in newspapers has to be recycled by law)</p> <p>Card – 4 UK and 1 Dutch mill to be re-pulped for recycled card</p> <p>Plastics – 2 UK reprocessors used to pelletise/granulate into recycle raw plastics and direct manufacture of plastic pipes.</p> <p>Residue – used as fibrefuel at Slough heat and power plant</p> <p>Some of the local builders waste (not reused for hardcore)) is used in Betchworth Quarry for land fill – it has been given permission for a MRF to sort this into sand quarry infill and waste – 30% of waste stays on site currently – the MRF should make this 50%. Currently they deal with 19,500 tons they hope to deal with 45,000. Application is with GOSE having been approved by SCC.</p> <p>The council periodically encourages home composting by offering discounted composting bins.</p> <p>Compost currently is sent to a couple of sites in Esher, Reigate. MV is negotiating with farmers to have some local up to 3,000 ton composting sites on farms for their own use. Tonnage charges per lorry are anticipated to be cheaper (nearer to £30 than £45) than that from larger sites. Compost will need to be shredded before composting as green waste tends to be woody items not compostable at home.</p> <p>There are no facilities available for composting of food waste other than at home composting – for many people that means it goes into the rubbish, where encouragement is for rubbish to have as little rottable fabric in it as possible.</p> <p>Local bring sites are now just Bottle Banks – although aluminium bins may be introduced at these sites as individuals cannot put foil into the recycle bin – although some tins are aluminium. This is because the cans are sorted out by Magnets.</p> <p>There are not enough local bring sites – There are a few expected to be</p>
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		<p>built in the near future – the more urban areas are very short of sites. MV does not comply with the govt suggestion of a site within 1mile of any household. Those that exist are being emptied every 2/3 days to keep up with demand. Can and paper is now removed from sites as this is within the Household Collection.</p> <p>Sites near housing are signed to only take glass between 9 -4. (eg Chart Downs and Westcott) Local sites often are sponsored by local communities and they receive a small percentage of the money obtained from the tonnage for looking after the site.</p> <p>Bring Bottle Bank Sites are at Pippbrook and behind the Dorking Halls. The latter has a Thameside Paper bank which is well used although some card is obviously from commercial enterprises.</p> <p>More bring sites are needed in and around Dorking – but perceived and actual noise from breaking glass is a problem to find new sites. New sites are planned in Goodwyns and N Holmwood.</p> <p>MV requests that no food containers are placed in their rubbish and on the whole this is complied with. The waste from the green bins is taken to Randalls Road MRF and sorted – MV waste only has 5% of contamination in its bins which is low .</p> <p>The major problem in the commercial area. Despite protests from some councillors, the commercial waste collection was sold by the council as it was not a statutory requirement – Govt is now looking at commercial waste collection and in particular recycle within commercial waste and MV has no formal control over the situation. Biffa who bought the collection round good will for £82,000 has upset many clients, put up the collection cost and will not consider recycle collection.</p>
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		<p>Encouraging another organisation (such as Grundon) to come in a take over commercial collection has to be considered as way to improve waste collection in DK) However this could make Grundons MRF a less “clean” MRF if they elected to collect everything at once! Most office waste is over 80% paper and card.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>q</li> </ul>	<p>Q 2 How are energy conservation methods and local renewable energy sources used within the town and the surrounding countryside?</p>	<p>New large developments, especially commercial are meant to make 10% energy savings. A few have solar panels – none have wind collection.</p> <p>Domestic properties are encouraged to utilise grants to install insulation in lofts and walls. (MV news and other publications). Householders with no income can get it for free in certain circumstances.</p> <p>Problem – older houses are often not capable of insulation in walls due to wall construction, and some buildings about 40 yrs old used a particular type of single thickness block that is not possible to inject.</p> <p>With increased fuel prices more houses do have solar energy, usually vacuum tubes for hot water and heating.</p> <p>Solar panels and the required hot tanks are expensive (about £4000 per 3 bed house) and generation 3 is really unsightly.</p> <p>Thus some solar panels may not suit conservation areas. Panels in very sensitive locations require planning permission .</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Authority</li> </ul>	<p>Q 3 Low carbon initiatives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What initiatives are in operation for the town to become a low carbon area?</li> <li>How are these initiatives contributing to improved air quality, health and creation of employment opportunities?</li> </ol>	<p>None as far as I am aware!</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Authority Planning Dept</li> <li>Local builders</li> </ul>	<p>Q 4 What use is being made of sustainable building materials for new buildings within the town?</p> <p>(Worksheets EC6 Q1; EC7 Q18; S2, S3 Q11; S5 Q8 and S6 Q1&amp; 3 also refer to the built environment)</p>	<p>80% of demolition materials are encouraged to be used on site by govt. All planning applicants are encouraged to recycle materials.</p> <p>Many properties use recycled tiles – all materials for buildings in conservation areas have to show their materials to planning dept for approval.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local survey</li> </ul>	<p>Q 5 Where goods and products from the local countryside are produced, how many of them carry a local Environmental Quality Mark (EQM)?</p> <p>(Worksheets EC7 Q10,17,18; S3 Q7,11 also refer to environmental quality. Worksheets EC2 Q2,3; EC5; also refer to land-based industries. Worksheets EC7 Q12; S5 Q9 also refer to food)</p>	<p>Not known</p>

Sub-section: Quality of life through leisure and recreation		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Authority</li> </ul>	<p>Q 6 Do community open spaces, sites and facilities currently available for informal recreation and amenity meet the needs of the local people?</p> <p>(Worksheets EC7 Q10,17,18; S3 Q7,11 also refer to environmental quality. Worksheet S5 refers to open space. Worksheets EC7 Q13; S5; S6; T3 Q17 also refer to recreation &amp; leisure)</p>	To be surveyed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Authority</li> <li>Local survey</li> <li>Tourist or Visitor Information Centre</li> </ul>	<p>Q 7 What recreation routes for walking and cycling are available to local people?</p> <p><i>(Worksheet EC7 Q13,14; T1 Q5; T2 Q6; T3 also refer to pedestrian access ; Worksheets EC7 Q13; S5; S6; T3 Q17 also refer to recreation &amp; leisure)</i></p>	See Transport

SWOT analysis

You need to consider what the information you have gathered tells you in the light of these questions:	Write your answers here. Base them on the information you have gathered:	Conclusion					
		It's a Fact	Strength	Weakness	Opportunity	Threat	Need more
To what extent do people fully consider promoting and supporting environmentally sustainable initiatives? Are there any gaps or opportunities to extend these actions?	Nappy recycling wind & solar power				X X		
What improvements could be made in amenities such as open spaces, sites, routes and facilities for informal recreation that enhance the quality of life for local people be made? Are there any potential open spaces or sites that could be developed?	Survey?				x		