

Dorking Needs Action



Overview of the results of the Dorking Market Town Healthcheck

Reconnecting Dorking

- What we did
- Who we are
- Who helped
- Dorking today - what we discovered
 - transport
 - town centre economy
 - environment
 - community and social inclusion
- Dorking tomorrow - vision for the future - reconnecting Dorking
- How do we get there



What we did



Who we are - the structure

Stakeholders - the people of Dorking and its hinterland

Sponsors

- Mole Valley District Council
- Surrey County Council
- Surrey Community Action

Facilitators - Dorking Town Centre Forum

Participants - Public Volunteers in Steering Group and supporting workgroups

Independent and non-political

Who we are - the cast list

Andy Tanner	Chair
Helen Thomas	Coordinator
John Meudell	Transport
Peter Bunn	Town Centre Economy
John Steer	Environment
Debbie Harrison	Community and Social Inclusion
Caroline Salmon	Steering Group Member
Margaret Morton	Surrey Community Action
Rod Shaw	Mole Valley District Council
Lynne Martin	Surrey County Council
Stephen Cooksey	Mole Valley and Surrey Councillor

supported by volunteers from the community

Who helped

Funders:

- Awards for All
- Surrey County Council
(Cllr Stephen Cooksey's discretionary allowance)
- Mole Valley District Council
- Surrey Community Action
- Department for the Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

Help in kind:

- Bullimores
- Design Lynx
- local volunteers

Inspiration and advice - Leatherhead Healthcheck



Dorking today - what we discovered

- Generally prosperous
- Pleasant to live in
- Desirable setting



but on the horizon...

Dorking today - what we discovered

- Worrying signs and trends
- Not sustainable
- “Could be better”...
an opportunity to act now
to reach our potential



Dorking today - what we discovered

Transport

Easy to get to other places

Hard to move about the town

- impact of high density residential building
- bus, walking and cycling not optimised
- poor access at Dorking railway stations
- scope for infill bus services
- high cycle ownership
- network of paths



Dorking today - what we discovered

Town Centre Economy

On the surface economy is doing well

Worrying underlying trends

- rate of churn of shops
- money is spent in nearby towns
- polarisation - High Street Brands v “Clone Town”
- poor quality of retail units
- putting the market into a market town
- tourists visit the countryside but do not spend in the town



Dorking today - what we discovered

Environment

Desirable place to live near beautiful countryside

Town with green spaces and attractive historical buildings

- promote attractiveness and heritage of town centre
- friendly environments for all types of visitor



Dorking today - what we discovered

Community and Social Inclusion

Community is largely content with living here

Threats to the vitality and vibrancy of the local population

- more youth provision and support for younger families
- growing numbers of older retired
- affordable housing
- leisure and sports for those on low incomes
- festivals and community events
- beliefs about levels of crime



Dorking tomorrow - vision for the future

Reconnecting Dorking

The challenges

- traffic congestion and poor internal transport links
- falling demand from customers for shopping outside the busiest times
- tourism in the natural surroundings -not bringing money into the centre
- lack of money being invested in the town centre
- failure to plan to help businesses to keep going in the long-term
- lack of social cohesion and integration
- divisions and differences between different social groups
- a rising older population and a lack of provision for both young and old

Dorking tomorrow - vision for the future

Reconnecting Dorking

Transport

a town whose physical links work better

- less car use - better facilities for cyclists and pedestrians
- improved public transport
- an overall plan for parking

Economy

sustainability and vibrancy

- shops for whole community
- encouraging visitors into the town



Dorking tomorrow - vision for the future

Reconnecting Dorking

The Environment

a sustainable high quality urban environment

- high quality town centre
- needs of people above needs of vehicles
- a green agenda



Community and Social Inclusion

connecting Dorking's different communities

- more and varied events
- increased provision for young people and rising older population
- greater access to community facilities
- stronger sense of civic pride



Dorking tomorrow - vision for the future

Reconnecting Dorking

This means in summary - Reconnecting Dorking to create:

- a town whose physical links work better
- an economy which is sustainable and vibrant
- a high quality urban environment which puts people first
- greater social and community cohesion

What happens next

- DNA is on the road
- brochure delivered to households in Dorking and surrounding area
- selection of projects for development
 - review by MVDC and Surrey CC
 - volunteers will prioritise
 - use evidence to prove need and secure funding
- creation of a framework to take work forward



How you can help

Support the vision to reconnect Dorking

Review the potential projects

Volunteer to work on projects

Encourage others to volunteer

Suggest other contacts

Visit www.dorkingdna.org