

SELF-RELIANT AND THRIVING COMMUNITIES

Supporting Local Business

Background

There is a wide range of businesses located in Walton-on-the-Hill providing local employment as well as services and commodities to villagers. Many businesses are run by local people or people who have a connection with the village. They were consulted through interviews, questionnaires, and using an electronic voting system and a business breakfast feedback event.

- Local businesses' employees are customers of other village businesses and so help maintain them.
- Local businesses contribute to the pressures on other local services like roads and parking.
- The type of businesses in the village is changing. There are many sole traders and businesses whose main customer base is via the Internet.
- Traditional food and commodities businesses report losing trade to the supermarkets over many years.
- There is an increase in service industries.
- All elements of the community are concerned about the decline in the mix of village shops.
- Respondents feel that if too many of the core shops are lost then people will stop coming to the village. The loss of the post office is a particular concern to the older residents.
- Businesses are concerned about the level of Business Rates. However these monies are collected by the local authority on behalf of central government where they are pooled and redistributed according to the number of people living in an area.

Location

- Walton-on-the-Hill.

Action

- Signpost the local shops from the Dorking Road. Surrey County Council Highways and Reigate & Banstead Borough Council.
- Set up a Village Business forum which will be run by Village Forum. Reigate & Banstead Borough Council.



- Provide more information on Business Rates via the Business Forum. Reigate & Banstead Borough Council.
- Implement the Village Shopping Parades initiative to upgrade the physical environment. Reigate & Banstead Borough Council.
- Alteration to parking restrictions will support short-term use by shoppers. Reigate & Banstead Borough Council. Surrey County Council.

■ **Lead/Responsible Agency:** Surrey County Council waiting restrictions and signage
Village Forum
Reigate and Banstead Borough Council Village Shopping Parades initiative - information on Business Rate Relief

■ **Resource:** Local Shops Signage £200 : Reigate and Banstead Borough Council
The established Village Forum will set up a Business Forum
The Borough Council's Village Shopping Parades initiative to be implemented in Walton on the Hill

■ **Timescale:** Signage 2006/07
Business Forum set up Summer 2006
Shopping Parades Phase 1 by 2008. Phase 2 2009-2011

■ **Outcome Measure/reporting:** Collect and pass on information on the requirements of local business. Help develop better communication links

■ **Local Community: What you can do**

- Use your local shops and services.
- Local Businesses support the Business Forum Breakfasts.