

Local Community Action Plan for Tadworth

Welcome to the Local Community Action Plan (LCAP) for the Tadworth area. This Plan is part of a project aimed at developing a better understanding of local residents' needs and priorities.

We actively work towards the achievement of sustainable and thriving communities for the people who live and work in the Borough, based on the principles of self-reliance, personal responsibility and freedom of choice.

This Plan has been developed by the Borough Council in conjunction with local residents and is intended to support these principles, giving residents an opportunity to influence decisions affecting their lives. We hope that we have included some issues in this Plan that you will recognise and that you will agree with the action recommended. However, this is a Plan that will be updated over time and we welcome your suggestions for change or improvements through the contact details below:

Community Liaison Team
Reigate and Banstead Borough Council
Town Hall, Castlefield Road, Reigate, Surrey RH2 0SH
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This foreword provides some background to the plan and is followed by sections which present the key issues raised by the local community through our consultation, which are shown under the themes of the Borough's Community Plan.

The LCAP is a process led by your local Councillors, who are:

Borough Councillors:

Councillor Mrs Rachel Turner
Councillor Richard Bennett
Councillor Victor Broad

County Councillor:

SCC Councillor Michael Gosling

■ The Area

The Tadworth Village LCAP study area is defined by the A217 dual carriageway to the East, common and farmland to the South and West and the ward boundary to the North, following the divisions that appear most natural to local residents. Located in the North of the Borough of Reigate and Banstead, Tadworth is viewed as semi-urban by definition, but residents highly value its rural location and village feel and the areas of common land and the adjoining Downs.

Tadworth has good local facilities grouped in distinct local districts. A great deal of the village has grown up after the arrival of train travel. The train station is still central to the village with many residents commuting into London and employees arriving to work in the surrounding local businesses.

The area is well served, having a good selection of independent Shops, Restaurants and Pubs which are greatly valued by residents. Other services are also accessible locally including Schools, Churches, Banks and local Health Service providers and practitioners. The majority of these facilities are set out in four main areas: Shelve Hill, Cross Road, the High Street and along the Dorking Road.

The Children's Trust also plays a significant part in Village life providing volunteering and job opportunities as well as being a focus for fund raising initiatives.

■ **Some Facts and Figures**

Data about Tadworth is collected in a number of forms by different organisations, as it is viewed either as a large postal area, part of a borough council ward or part of an area that includes Preston. Depending on the approach the estimated figures show a population of between 5,127 and 6,500. It is estimated that the population has increased only slightly since the 2001 census to the 2006 mid-point. Figures suggest that Tadworth is one of only two wards that have one quarter of its population over 60 years of age.

More facts and figures, including a Census 2001 overview, can be found at Reigate and Banstead Borough Council's website, www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk

■ **How was the Plan Developed?**

Consultation has been carried out with local residents, community groups and businesses, such as local schools, youth groups, the residents association, traders and general resident feedback through questionnaires and interviews.

The consultation has simply asked what the local community feels are the best and worst things about living and working in the area, giving residents the opportunity to raise anything that they feel is an issue locally. This has then allowed a picture to be built up of the key issues, which have been explored by the Borough Council and other partner organisations, including Surrey County Council, to try and bring about actions that will address these issues.

The LCAP has been developed over a period of months and a range of consultation and research methods have been used, including:

- 1 to 1 interviews
- Community group consultations
- Door knocking
- Questionnaires
- Emailed consultation
- School and Youth workshops
- Business Breakfast
- Feedback sessions

■ What the Local Community Said

The Best Things

There has been a lot of positive feedback from residents about living in Tadworth. Below are some of the best things about the area that local residents have said in the LCAP consultation:

Location

"Links to London and coast make it an ideal spot to live"

"Near the train station for daddy"

"I have lived here 3 months it is a lovely place to live"

"Good environment for children"

"It has a sense of safety and security"

"Nice urban village atmosphere"

Amenities

"Shopping Parade with good helpful service"

"Very good medical centre"

"Facilities provided by the Borough Council"

"Range of local shops, schools, churches and there are many activities organised by a number of groups"

"You can shop locally all on the doorstep, the diversity of the offer"

Countryside

"Good environment for foxes and wildlife"

"Walking through the woods and heath"

"Sitting at the pond watching the wildlife and horses"

"Countryside close by for walking"

"The beautiful countryside and footpaths"

Community

"Friendly Community in my immediate area"

"The friendly people, neighbours and shopkeepers and organisations such as the Tadworth Art group"

"The friendly feelings of the residents to each other always ready for a chat, either in the shops or outside"

"Tadworth customers are very loyal and supportive"

Transport

"Good Transport Links"

"Train and bus services are good make shopping easy"

"Easy access to railway station and bus stops"

"Good train links to London and not far from channel ports"

"Proximity to train station & transport to London"

Most respondents like where they live and the people they live beside. They appreciate the location and the ease of access to local countryside and to the amenities provided by the South East area generally, many commenting on the availability of public transport. Respondents also valued the range and availability of services including schools or shops.

■ Room for Improvement

Whilst there was a lot of positive feedback, there were also plenty of local issues raised, which form the focus of this Plan. The following key issues were identified, which are each described:

- Roads and Pavement Conditions
- Safer Routes to School
- Parking
- Traffic
- Thriving Local Business
- Community Safety
- Village Appearance
- Development
- Local Environment
- Lack of facilities for Young People
- Public Transport
- Health Services
- Education.



