

FOREWORD

Local Community Action Plan for South Park, Woodhatch and part of Meadvale

Welcome to the Local Community Action Plan for the South Park, Woodhatch and Meadvale area. This is one of the first of this type of Plan developed in the Borough as part of a pilot 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.

We hope we have included some issues in the Plan that you will recognise and that you will agree with the actions recommended. However, this is a Plan that will be updated over time. We welcome your suggestions for change or improvement through the contact details provided in this document.

■ What is the purpose of a Local Community Action Plan?

The Borough Council contributes to the overall sense of wellbeing in the Borough through the provision of high quality, value for money public services, and undertakes projects and initiatives that improve the quality of life.

The Borough Council has been working with representatives of key organisations in the area to understand the problems and identify ways in which they might be tackled. The outcomes reflected in this Plan will lead to improvements that are of value to local people and that they will notice.

The information gathered from this process will be shared with other service providers, such as Surrey County Council, the Police and the Local Strategic Partnership to help inform service planning and delivery in the area and across the Borough.

■ The area included

The Project area is South Park, Woodhatch and part of Meadvale. The area lies just to the south of Reigate and is centred around the 'Angel cross-road' at the junction of the A217 and A2044. It has a population of approximately 8,000 living in a range of property types in a number of distinct but adjoining communities. The area is well served by local services including schools, shops, churches, a youth club and a lively community centre. There is a strong sense of community and a number of local initiatives are currently underway, including the development of a new Community Centre behind the Woodhatch Centre, the Woodhatch Park Project and improvements to facilities for young people.

■ How was the Plan developed?

This Plan has been developed over a period of 6 months. It has been a planned process involving interviews, attendance at meetings and presentations, workshops, research and survey work.

The community have identified the following key issues:

1. Poor highways maintenance
2. Obstructive on-street parking
3. Parking and traffic flow in local shopping parades
4. Poor public transport
5. Speeding vehicles on local roads
6. High levels of litter
7. Dog fouling
8. Consultation regarding telephone masts
9. Recycling
10. Sense of identity and place
11. A lack of facilities/opportunities for young people
12. Anti social behaviour
13. Isolation within the Community
14. Sustainability of the voluntary/community sector

Although the Plan focuses on improvements, there has been a great deal of positive feedback from residents about the areas they live in. Of particular value to local people are the local green spaces and how well they are maintained along with ease of access to a range of facilities. In general, local people are proud of where they live. However they do not feel that they receive equal access to services.

■ The attached Plan contains:

- A description of each issue
- The background to how it was identified
- The location of the problem
- What actions are to be taken to improve the situation
- Who will lead and take responsibility for the actions to be taken
- The resources needed
- How long it will take to carry out the actions
- What will be different when the actions have been carried out

More detailed information regarding the community profile and the liaison and consultation processes used to develop this Plan are contained on the Borough Council website (www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk), along with information on the Borough Community Plan and the Borough Council's Corporate Plan.

■ What happens next?

It will be possible to carry out some of the actions within this Plan almost immediately, but others will take some time to deliver. Ward Councillors and the Borough Council's Community Liaison Team will monitor the Plans on an on-going basis. Progress will be reported back to the public via various means including:

- The Council's website (www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk)
- Borough News