



ANNEX J

ENVIRONMENT WORKSHEETS AND OTHER SUPPORTING DATA

- J1 SWOT
- J2 WORKSHEET EN1: CHARACTER AND VITALITY OF THE TOWN
- J3 WORKSHEET EN2: THE TOWN AND THE WIDER COUNTRYSIDE
- J4 WORKSHEET EN3: THE ENVIRONMENT AND QUALITY OF LIFE
- J5 MEETINGS WITH ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS
- J6 SUSTAINABILITY ANALYSIS
- J7 ENVIRONMENT QUESTIONNAIRE



J1 SWOT

STRENGTH/WEAKNESS/THREAT	OPPORTUNITY/PROJECT IDEA
Strength	Opportunity/Project Idea
Proximity to both transport links and countryside	Promote the town as gateway to the Surrey Hills, both as part of the Visit Leatherhead initiative and also to build on the work of Surrey Wildlife Trust at Nower Wood to develop learning resources for London children which will also benefit local children.
	Interpretative work with town children will also benefit local families
Many wildlife habitats around town and riverside	Develop wildlife corridors between areas
	Liaison and sharing of best practice among countryside managers
Much local volunteer input into conservation	Local employers could encourage their employees to participate
High levels of recycling achieved	Improve information about which materials can be recycled
Interest in sustainability by householders	Promote sustainable initiatives
Sustainable building project by MVDC	Encourage them to build more and to publicise it more

Weakness	Opportunity/Project Idea
Theatre fly tower is neglected and unsightly	Discuss with owner how to improve it
Bookworm parade of shops	Discuss with new owner how to improve it
Pumping Station is under-used	Could house climbing wall, nature study centre or sustainability centre
Waterway Road, unattractive entrance into town	Planting on railway embankment
Difficult access to Mill Pond	Make junction safer for pedestrians and cyclists
Shortage of seats and litter bins in town centre	Add both.
Shortage of seats and litter bins on way into town	Work out where they are needed
Centre of town is dreary	Celebrate centre of town with flowers; discuss with Town Centre Manager
A boards in main shopping streets a hazard	PR campaign to explain problem, Town Centre Manager to target offenders by mail shots
Poor link between Church St and High St	Investigate an improved design
Dowdy buildings between historic area and centre	Give all of Church Street a face lift
Mess by riverside footpath near Salvation Place	Clear it up
Water Company new building is obtrusive in landscape	Get them to screen it
Poor engagement of office workers with locality	Get them involved in volunteering and conservation work
Farmers' Market the only commercial link	Strengthen and promote it
Main roads cut off residents from countryside	Make safe crossing places on line of main bridleways or footpaths
	Include Leatherhead in route of countryside buses



Weakness	Opportunity/Project Idea
Farming is under great pressure, needing support	Affluent potential customers in our urban area - develop more links
We do not make enough of our river	Major project with lots of community involvement
Well loved riverside walks not long enough	Find ways to extend riverside walks
Need seats by the river	Add them, where appropriate
Scruffy footpaths to river	Improve footpaths from Church St and Station Road to river
Visitors don't know there is a river to see	Signs and information in town centre and on the way to river
People don't know the difference between bridleways and footpaths.	Maps showing bridleways and footpaths could explain the difference between the two.
People don't know what wildlife to look out for	Information in various formats showing exactly what to look out for
Difficult for disabled people to access riverside	Extend accessible stretch of footpath and improve it
Families with young children need safe cycleways	Family cycle paths away from traffic
Difficult for disabled people to access countryside and riverside and the action to be	Extend and improve accessible footpaths
Red house Grounds need improvements	Lighting, seating, picnic tables, flowers, bins, summertime events
Bull Hotel site not developed yet	Improvement to path to river and green corridor alongside it
	Well designed building at this highly visible location
Bull Hill depot site derelict	Good building at entrance to town, plus
	Bull Hill civilised by inserting safe crossing and more landscaping
Threats	
Fields by M25 could be used for widening	investigate possibility of green corridor from Ashtead Woods to Barnett Wood Lane
Cramming of building into urban area	Update local design statement
Seeboard site	Support MVDC in resisting a substandard design in this beauty spot
Leisure Centre to be redeveloped	Could replace with well designed building in this sensitive site
	Could include countryside information
Pressure for building in Green Belt	Support MVDC in resisting it and put up with higher density in town



J2: WORKSHEET EN1: CHARACTER AND VITALITY OF THE TOWN

Task: to find out what aspects of the town and its hinterland give it character and vitality, and to describe the quality of these features.

Starting points for information	Information you will need	Answers and notes
Sub-section 1: Description of the environmental features of the area		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maps or aerial photographs Local knowledge 	<p>Q 1 Where is the town situated within the local landscape?</p> <p><i>For example, is the town in a valley, in the open countryside, or alongside a river?</i></p>	<p>Leatherhead is situated at the northern end of the Mole Gap, where the River Mole, having wound its way northwards through a narrow valley in the chalk hills of the North Downs, emerges into a mostly clay, sand and gravel landscape, on its way to the River Thames at Molesey. To the North of the town there are stretches of woodland, some of it ancient, with open farmland between them, and to the South the landscape is mainly open downland, farmland and woodland. There is a wide variety of geology and ecology to be enjoyed, all within reach of the town.</p> <p>The town is at the point where the A24 London-Worthing road meets the A246 to Guildford and the A243 to Kingston. It is close to junction 9 on the M25. It is also midway between Heathrow and Gatwick airports.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maps or aerial photographs Local survey 	<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>The town is surrounded by green open space. For a traveller approaching from London, it is the first town that is set within countryside and outside the urban sprawl.</p> <p>To the north and east is woodland and farmland, bisected by the M25 and the Bypass. To the south is the dip slope of the North Downs and to the west, the River Mole.</p> <p>The boundaries are more or less set by the M25 on the north side, the Bypass on the east and south and the river on the west, although there is more housing to the south of the Bypass which is also in Leatherhead, and some scattered housing to the north of the M25.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local survey District Council (ask for: Conservation Areas, Local Plan, Design Statement, Tree Preservation Orders) 	<p>Q 3 Landmarks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Where are the town's natural environmental landmarks (for example, groups of trees, parkland, and nature areas)? Are they protected or well maintained? <p>(Worksheets S5 Q6 and S6 Q6 also refer to environmental features and local distinctiveness).</p>	<p>The River Mole Local Nature Reserve runs alongside the town from north to south, joining areas of countryside. In order to improve its biodiversity, a joint management plan has been agreed and is being implemented by the Environment Agency, Surrey County Council and Mole Valley District Council, with the help of local groups such as the Lower Mole Countryside Management Group and the Leatherhead Trust.</p> <p>There are several notable groups of trees within the town, such as the cedar trees near Station Road and the Hospital, the trees in Red House Gardens and the mature horse chestnut trees along Dorking Road and in Epsom Road. There are 97 trees with preservation orders. Trees within the town are well maintained.</p> <p>The main landmarks seen from the town are Norbury Park and Cherkley Downs to the south of the town and Ashtead Woods and Teazle Woods to the north. To the west, beyond the river, there are the large open spaces of the leisure centre, cricket club, football club and Thorncroft Manor.</p> <p>Much of the local countryside has special designation and is well maintained. See section ENV2.7</p>



Starting points for information	Information you will need	Answers and notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Wildlife Trust Local Biodiversity Action Plan 	<p>Q 4 Biodiversity:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> What areas are important for local biodiversity? What measures are in place to protect or enhance them? <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>There are too many to describe in detail, but for an example, in a 3 mile stretch of the R Mole corridor can be found 100 species of birds, 20 of mammals, 15 of dragonflies and 20 different butterflies.</p> <p>Ashtead Woods. Nower Wood. Ashtead Park Bookham Common The Woodfield River Mole corridor Teazle Wood Leatherhead Common Woods Cherkley Wood</p> <p>The first five of these already have management plans, the Mole Corridor management plan is in preparation and some management work has been agreed by landowners, on the remaining three.</p>
<p>Sub-section 2: Built features of the town</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maps Aerial photographs Local knowledge 	<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& 3 also refer to the built environment).</p>	<p>The overall shape of Leatherhead is like an oval, with a North-South orientation. The town exhibits a wide range of built environments. The centre is typically dense with clusters of shops, services, restaurants, offices and notably the theatre and institute. To the north of the centre is a belt of business parks and beyond that the densely constructed North Leatherhead residential area. To the west the town centre is bounded by the river. To the east are medium density residential areas to the M25. Southwards the area beyond the parish church is of least density, with the very spacious Givons Grove and Tyrrells Wood estates beyond the by-pass.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> District Council (ask for: Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, Local Plans) Town Design Statement Local history group Tourist Information Office 	<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& 3 also refer to the built environment).</p>	<p>The old Town Bridge and the area around it, including the Running Horse and the walk beside the river, is the best known beauty spot. This area is in fairly good condition. The area around the parish church is well cared for. The old town centre, around Gravel Hill and North Street, is in mixed condition. Bridge Street is in good shape. The High Street is marred by some ugly shop fronts. The Church Road area is well maintained. The theatre fly tower is an eyesore seen from many points in the town. The front of the Victorian railway station typifies that era and is well kept. The rear is unattractive and less well kept</p>



Starting points for information	Information you will need	Answers and notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> District Council 	<p>Q 7 Development:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> What are the areas where there are rundown or derelict buildings needing repair or restoration? What plans are there to revitalise or redevelop these areas/buildings? <p>(Worksheets EC6 Q1; EC7 Q18; S2, S3 Q11; S5 Q8 and S6 Q1& 3 also refer to the built environment. Worksheets EC6 Q1,8,9; S2; S5 Q10 and T1 Q3 also refer to development)</p>	<p>Former Bull Hotel site Former depot site on Bull Hill A & H Feeds in Highlands Road Former Bookworm parade of shops in North Street The theatre fly tower The 1930s pumping station.</p> <p>The first three are under consideration for redevelopment. The last three are in need of refurbishment.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> District Council (ask for Local Plan proposal map) 	<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& 3 also refer to the built environment)</p>	<p>Within the town centre, mainly shops, services, the institute and theatre and some flats. Around this nucleus, housing and some offices. On the northern outskirts, as well as a large area of housing, there are several large business parks.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local survey Town Design Statements 	<p>Q 9 Are the main routes into the town, including those from train and bus stations, attractive and in good condition?</p>	<p>Gimcrack Hill to the South is a delightful approach to the town, with old brick walls topped by a view of the parish church. Epsom Road, on the east, is tree lined and pleasant. Waterway Road, which takes Fetcham traffic across the river from the West, is utilitarian and unworthy of its setting. Guildford Road and Bridge Street on the west are acceptable. The Kingston Road on the north, in contrast, is usually congested with traffic, has lost most of its old buildings, is lined with mostly uninteresting housing and office buildings and feels much more urban. The beginning of the route from the station is unwelcoming, and at night in particular can feel threatening.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local survey Town Design Statements 	<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 & T3 also refer to pedestrian access)</p>	<p>Our survey information indicates that people want several of the footpaths to be better lit at night, better signposted, better maintained and made more attractive. The route, which runs from the downside of the railway station to North Street, needs better lighting. The cycle/footway from the station to the Old Kingston Road needs better lighting and CCTV. The footpaths into the High Street from Elm Road, and Elm Road itself, need to be made more attractive and better lit at night. The footpaths to the riverside from Church Street and North Street need to be upgraded and better signposted.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local survey District Council Town Design Statements 	<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 overflowing or insufficient waste bins.</i></p>	<p>Our Living Streets survey revealed many pedestrian hazards and trips in the High Street. We also noted a lack of sufficient seating and litter bins. We felt that the area around the crossroads could be celebrated more, with colourful flowers in planters. We found pedestrian hazards in other places; see the Transport & Access section.</p>



Starting points for information	Information you will need	Answers and notes
	(Worksheets EC6 Q1; EC7 Q18; S2, S3 Q11; S5 Q8 and S6 Q1& 3 also refer to the built environment. WorksheetsEC7 Q10,17,18; S3 Q7,11 also refer to environmental quality)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local survey Town Design Statements 	<p>Q 12</p> <p>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& 3 also refer to the built environment. WorksheetsEC7 Q10,17,18; S3 Q7,11 also refer to environmental quality)</p>	<p>A-boards are obstacles in all the main streets. The narrow pavement in Bridge St is sometimes completely blocked by one. When cars are in the High Street, A-boards can block the pavement, forcing people to walk in the path of traffic.</p> <p>The road signs at junctions with the one-way system are confusing and intrusive.</p>

Sub-section 3: Environmental issues for the town

Starting points for information	Information you will need	Answers and notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local survey District Council (ask for Local Plan and Town Design Statements) 	<p>Q 13</p> <p>The town's environment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> What are the environmental issues facing the town? What plans are there to deal with them? <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>Possible growth of air travel; aircraft noise from Heathrow and Gatwick can be intrusive, as well as the clatter of helicopters flying above the M25. The Council seeks to ensure noise levels are monitored and that limits are observed.</p> <p>Further widening of the M25. The fields next to the motorway, which are part of the green Belt, are particularly vulnerable to development and are privately owned.</p> <p>Traffic congestion on the M25: when there are problems on the M25 the town can become completely clogged with traffic. Much of it is directed around the Bypass, but if the closure coincides with the rush hour, the one-way system can come to a stand still.</p> <p>Some parts of the town have problems with the sewage system, which can get surcharged and cause unpleasant flooding. Thames Water is aware of this problem.</p> <p>There is great pressure for more housing within the urban area, which can cause cramming and which puts pressure on the infrastructure.</p> <p>The mixture of uses in the High Street needs to be accommodated, while keeping the area safe for all users (pedestrians, people with disabilities, cars, delivery vehicles, market stalls, and communal celebrations.) This is a project which cuts across all four subject areas of the Healthcheck.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local survey District Council (ask for Local Plan and Town Design Statements)- 	<p>Q 14</p> <p>Brown field land:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> What brown field land is available for building? Is this available land being considered in planning decisions? <p>(WorksheetsEC7 Q10, 17, 18; S3 Q7, 11 also refer to environmental quality. Worksheets EC6 Q1,8,9; S2; S5 Q10 and T1 Q3 also refer to development)</p>	<p>Bull Hill site: currently owned by a retailer who is seeking planning permission.</p> <p>Depot site on Bull Hill: currently subject of a planning permission for housing and parking.</p> <p>Seaboard site: developers are appealing against a refusal of permission to build a large office block on this site, close to the historic Town Bridge over the River Mole.</p> <p>A & H Feeds in Highlands Road: application for permission to develop with flats has been received and agreed.</p> <p>Three further developments are under construction: the PIRA site (apartments and National Police Federation HQ), ERA site (Laing Homes) and Kingston Road works (Barratt apartments).</p>



Starting points for information	Information you will need	Answers and notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> District Council conservation officer Town Design Statement 	<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& 3 also refer to the built environment)</p>	<p>Much of the centre of the town has been designated as a Conservation Area. The Mole Valley Heritage Week offers one of the biggest programmes of places to visit in the South East</p> <p>The Red House grounds have been redesigned and are being redeveloped as a town park. Redesign of Church Street is under discussion.</p> <p>Floodlighting of the war memorial and Wesley House is under way.</p> <p>Gravel Hill and Leret Way are to be enhanced.</p> <p>The Bull Hill/Station Road junction is to be made safer and more attractive.</p> <p>Highways signage in the town is to be improved.</p> <p>The Kingston Road recreation ground has been redesigned with the help of local residents and seats and entrances designed and fabricated by local young people.</p> <p>There is a need for updated design guidelines from MVDC that are more rigorously enforced.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local planning office Estate Agents Local council Offices 	<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& 3 also refer to the built environment)</p>	<p>Very few retail units are available to purchase; they are all to rent. The issue for us is to retain them for retail use rather than for services and restaurants.</p> <p>The Leisure Centre is due to be replaced by a new set of buildings, which may offer opportunities.</p> <p>It may be that the former Waterworks building could be put to community use in the future.</p>

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.	It's a Fact *	Strength*	Weakness	Opportunity *	Threat	Need more info
Does the town make the most of its natural environmental features? If there are opportunities for improvements to areas, what/where are they?	<p>Improvements have been made to the R Mole corridor and it is now designated a Local Nature Reserve" (Fact/Strength)</p> <p>Could make more of its natural and built environment as a visitor centre.</p> <p>Riverside walks could be extended and improved.</p> <p>Better access to the nearby countryside, without people having to get into their cars.</p> <p>Several buildings and sites within the town are in need of redevelopment or refurbishment.</p>	*	*	*	*		
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>The town does have vitality and character, almost too much in the evening, when parked cars line both sides of the High Street. The parking needs to be regulated.</p> <p>High St needs better maintenance.</p> <p>Pedestrian routes need improvement.</p>	*	*		*		



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.	It's a Fact *	Strength*	Weakness	Opportunity *	Threat	Need more info
Are there any major environmental concerns are being addressed and planned for? Are there any gaps?	Growth of air travel and motorway travel. Pressure for more housing on Green Belt land					* *	

J3 WORKSHEET EN2 THE TOWN AND THE WIDER COUNTRYSIDE

Starting points for information	Information you will need	Answers and notes
Sub-section: Links between town and countryside		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maps or aerial photographs Local survey 	<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& 3 also refer to the built environment. Worksheets S5 Q6; S6 Q5 also refer to environmental features)</p>	<p>The River Mole runs alongside the town on the west side and connects the clay farmland and woodland to the north with the chalk downlands to the south. The M25 runs around the outskirts of the town on the north and east sides and the Bypass continues round to the south. Thus, the river and the major roads encircle the town, with very few crossing places for pedestrians and cyclists. Six major roads connect the town with the countryside on all sides. The railway runs from north to south and west, through the town, necessitating several bridges.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local survey 	<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& 3 also refer to the built environment. Worksheet S6 Q5 also refers to local distinctiveness)</p>	<p>The traditional building styles, which are found in the surrounding villages, are to be found inside the town as well. These include the use of red local bricks, tile hanging on upper storeys and knapped flint walls.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local survey Local Tourist Board Maps 	<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>The River Mole as it flows through the distinctive town bridge is a popular subject for local artists, viewed from various angles. The swans and other creatures, which inhabit the river and its surroundings, are a topic of discussion among local people, especially during the nesting season. Wildlife photographers find excellent subjects all along the river corridor from Common Meadow in the North to Thorncroft in the South. The most popular beauty spot is probably the stretch of river near Thorncroft, with its islands and the Shell Bridge. The church viewed from the bottom of Gimcrack Hill on the approach to the town and also viewed from the bridleway near the top of Hawks Hill is a</p>



Starting points for information	Information you will need	Answers and notes
		picturesque sight. Spectacular views from the town include the Norbury hillside from the Beaverbrook roundabout or from the church, and the Mole Gap itself viewed from Leatherhead Golf Course.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local knowledge Local History Group Local Tourist Board Library 	<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& 3 also refer to the built environment. Worksheet S6 Q5 also refers to local distinctiveness)</p>	Although Leatherhead is an ancient town, the historic commercial links it once had with the surrounding countryside have all but disappeared.
Local survey	<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>	There is a fairly clear demarcation of the edge of the town and little degradation of the urban fringe. There are many horse riding establishments dotted around the outskirts of the town. The large hangar recently built by the water company on Hawks Hill, is highly visible from the South side of the town and detracts from the beautiful Norbury hillside. There is a gypsy site near the river at Young Street, which has an unsightly embankment next to it, right beside the public footpath. Apart from those exceptions, the high quality of the countryside is maintained right up to the edge of the town.
Sub-section: Countryside landscape character		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> County Council (ask for landscape character assessment) 	<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>	The unique characteristic is the Mole Gap, to the south of the town. The Local Plan describes it as a striking corridor of landscape, where the River Mole cuts through the chalk escarpment to create a spectacular geomorphological feature. The steep wooded hillsides can be seen from the town, and as the river approaches Leatherhead, it flows through water meadows, which are flooded in winter and are of great beauty. North of Leatherhead the river flows through a broad gentle valley, with mostly farmland on either side of the flood plain.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> District Council (ask for Local Plan) County Council English Nature Local Wildlife Trust 	<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"> National Parks Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) RAMSAR Special Protection Areas Special Areas of Conservation National Nature Reserves (NNR) Local Nature Reserves (LNR) Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation <p>(Worksheet EC7 Q10,17,18; S3 Q7,11 also refer to environmental quality)</p>	To the North East of Leatherhead, Ashted Common is a National Nature Reserve and a site of Special Scientific Interest. To the North West is Teazle Wood, which is of Nature Conservation Importance. Just West of the town is the Mill Pond and its adjoining meadows. To the South, there is a wide stretch of the Downs running from East to West, which is designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Two large sites of Special Scientific Interest are situated within this area and close to the town, one on each side of the valley. The River Mole corridor, which runs through the town, has recently been designated a Local Nature Reserve. The river itself is one of the best rivers for wildlife in the region.



Starting points for information	Information you will need	Answers and notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> District Council (ask for: Local Plans, Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, archaeologically important areas, Historic Parks and Gardens) English Heritage 	<p>Q 8</p> <p>Areas of historic importance:</p> <p>a. What areas of historic importance have concentrations of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listed Buildings Conservation Areas historic parkland Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM) Areas of Archaeological Importance <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& 3 also refer to the built environment. Worksheets S5 Q6; S6 Q5 also refer to environmental features)</p>	<p>The town was once owned by two manors, Thorncroft and Pachesham. Thorncroft Manor house is still there, but is used as offices. Part of its parkland includes the riverside and the Shell Bridge. There are the remains of a Tudor garden behind the Mansion in Church Street and remnants of an old garden and orchard in the grounds of Leatherhead Hospital.</p> <p>Stane Street ran past the outskirts of the town and there are the remains of a Roman villa and tile works in Ashtead Woods. These woods are of historical importance because they were once managed as woodland pasture, leaving us huge oak pollards to admire. There is also an archaeological site near Dorincourt, where the moated Pachesham manor house was situated.</p> <p>There are a total of eighty listed buildings within the town and five conservation areas.</p>

Sub-section: Countryside landscape quality, use & management

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> County Council Dept for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA). (Ask regional office 	<p>Q 9</p> <p>Land:</p> <p>a. What are the proportions of agricultural land at Grade 1, 2 or 3a?</p> <p>b. Where are they?</p>	<p>All the land around Leatherhead is of poor agricultural quality.</p> <p>Farming is under threat. Much of the local farmland has traditionally been used as grazing land, but much less livestock can now be seen.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DEFRA for current schemes) Environment Agency County Council 	<p>Q 10</p> <p>What areas of the countryside are being managed through national agri-environment schemes? Current schemes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Countryside Stewardship Scheme Environmentally Sensitive Areas Nitrate Sensitive Areas Habitat Scheme Moorland Scheme Organic Aid Scheme Countryside Access Scheme <p>(Worksheet EC7 Q10,17,18; S3 Q7,11 also refer to environmental quality)</p>	<p>FWAG was unable to identify the location of particular schemes, although they said that there are countryside stewardship schemes in the downland to the south of the town.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internet (local community network) Library Local Wildlife Trust British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) 	<p>Q 11</p> <p>Groups:</p> <p>a. How do community and voluntary groups participate in the management of the local countryside?</p> <p>b. How do they contribute to the town's and surrounding countryside's conservation?</p> <p>(Worksheets EC2 Q5; EC3 Q10; S4; S6 also refer to community involvement)</p>	<p>Ashtead Common, Bookham Common, Norbury Park, Fetcham Downs, Headley Warren, Mickleham Downs and Headley Heath are all actively managed to maintain and improve their landscape and wildlife value. The National Trust and Surrey Wildlife Trust and the Corporation of London, who are the main landowners, all encourage the involvement of volunteers in this work. The Lower Mole Countryside Management Project works with supervised volunteers throughout the area. Ashtead and Bookham Commons and Polesden Lacey have their own volunteers as well.</p> <p>The high quality of management and maintenance enhances the area's total environment.</p>



Starting points for information	Information you will need	Answers and notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business directory Local knowledge 	<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 Grange in Bookham and the Queen Elizabeth’s Training College in Leatherhead both give training to people with disabilities, which includes horticulture, and they have both started to have regular stalls in the Leatherhead Farmers Market, as have Denbies Vineyard and Kitchen Garden and a local garden centre.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soil Association (look at organic farmers and growers) Linking Environment and Farming (LEAF) 	<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>Not known</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> District Council Local Plan 	<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>None known.</p>

J3.2 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.	It's a Fact *	Strength*	Weakness	Opportunity *	Threat	Need more info
<p>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?</p>	<p>The employment in the town is mostly office based and has no connection with the locality, except that many employees enjoy walking into the town or taking their company bus, to have their lunch and do a little shopping. Occasionally employees participate in local conservation work. The Farmers’ Market is the only continuous commercial link with local producers. The forge in Teazle Wood produced ironwork to decorate the town. Many local residents are keen to enjoy their leisure time in the countryside, but have to use their cars to do so, because of lack of pedestrian access into the countryside.</p>		*	*	*		



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.	It's a Fact *	Strength*	Weakness	Opportunity *	Threat	Need more info
Looking at the quality of the surrounding countryside, its sensitive areas and its potential, are any areas in need of support/strengthening?	Farming is under tremendous pressure and is in need of support. Where farmers can diversify, they have, such as Bocketts Farm, which is visited by hundreds of families each weekend. This is not an option for some farmers; yet there are plenty of affluent potential customers in this area of the country; there must be an opportunity here.			*		*	*
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?	Very much less livestock on the farms. Introduction of conservation measures, such as planting hedgerows and restoring farm ponds. Local volunteers are involved in this work. Best practice by countryside managers could be shared among wardens and rangers.	*			*		
What potential is there to increase the extent of community involvement in the management and conservation of the countryside?	There is already local involvement, but local companies could encourage more participation by their employees.				*		

J4 WORKSHEET EN3: THE ENVIRONMENT AND QUALITY OF LIFE

Task: to establish the effects of the quality of the town's and countryside's environment on the quality of life.

J4.1 Worksheet

The way people live and work has an impact on the quality of the environment. Many people now want to “do their bit for the environment”, particularly in their own local area. This task will help you to consider:

- *How and where residents can use or support environmentally friendly initiatives*
- *How and where community members interact with their environment for leisure and recreation*
- *Where appropriate make links to Worksheets*
 - *T2: Accessibility of services*
 - *S5: Sport, Leisure and Open Spaces*
 - *T3: Ease of Movement around the Town*

Starting points for information	Information you need	Information
Sub-section: Environmental sustainability		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Council • Local community group • Charity schemes 	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:	The local authority has recently built a Materials Recycling Facility, where locally collected paper, cardboard, some plastics and cans are sorted for onward transmission to recycling facilities elsewhere. Householders can have these recyclables collected from their houses each fortnight but they have to take glass bottles and jars to local recycling centres. Green waste can be taken to the transfer station, where it is taken to be composted. MVDC



Starting points for information	Information you need	Information
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recycle re-use • produce bio-gas energy • compost organic waste <p>(Worksheets EC2 Q5; EC3 Q10; S4; S6 also refer to community involvement)</p>	<p>encourage householders to compost as much as they can at home. There are plans to start recycling plastics in the future.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Authority 	<p>Q 2 How are energy conservation methods and local renewable energy sources used within the town and the surrounding countryside?</p>	<p>MVDC recently completed an environmentally friendly housing project in Fetcham, Overlord Court.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Authority 	<p>Q 3 Low carbon initiatives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What initiatives are in operation for the town to become a low carbon area? b. How are these initiatives contributing to improved air quality, health and creation of employment opportunities? 	<p>Not known.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Authority Planning Dept • Local builders 	<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& 3 also refer to the built environment)</p>	<p>The council specifies the reuse of building materials whenever possible, when granting planning permission. It also seeks whenever possible, to specify that surfaces around buildings are permeable.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local survey 	<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>
<p><i>Sub-section: Quality of life through leisure and recreation</i></p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Authority 	<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 & leisure)</p>	<p>Our surveys indicate that residents are reasonably satisfied with their local parks and open spaces. There are many recreational links between the townspeople and the surrounding countryside, including walking, horse riding, cycling, orienteering, nature study, fishing, conservation work and visiting country pubs. The Council owned fields at River Lane are used for football, gymkhanas and model aircraft flying</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Authority • Local survey • Tourist or Visitor Information Centre 	<p>Q 7 What recreation routes for walking and cycling are available to local people?</p>	<p>There is a safe footpath and cycle track from the town to the South, beside the river. There is a network of footpaths in the countryside around the town including some very old bridleways on either side of the Mole Gap and a new Mole Gap Trail from the station to Dorking through the riverside meadows. All the major open spaces such as Ashted Woods, Norbury Park, Mickleham Downs, Box Hill and Polesden Lacey have an excellent network of well-maintained footpaths. There are links to a wider network, which includes the North Downs</p>



Starting points for information	Information you need	Information
	<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 & leisure)</i></p>	<p>Way, the Downs Link, the Greensand Way, the Sussex Border Path, the Thames Path and the Vanguard Way.</p> <p>There is a continuous cycle path from Leatherhead to Dorking beside the A24 and a family friendly cycle route through Norbury Park from Bocketts Farm to West Humble. There are also cycle paths in Ashted Woods and alongside the A243 towards Kingston.</p> <p>Although there is beautiful countryside around Leatherhead, with plenty of footpaths, the major roads cut off safe access for pedestrians and cyclists. The M25 runs around the North of the town and the Bypass continues all the way round to the South, with not a single safe crossing point. The only people who have access to a continuous footpath and cycle route into the countryside, are those living near the river; those at the northern tip of the town, over a mile from the centre, can take a small footpath into Teazle Wood. The result is that the only way most residents can reach the countryside is by car. We have seen from our research that many local schoolchildren have very limited horizons and elderly people who no longer drive can only enjoy the distant views.</p>

J4.2 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.	It's a Fact *	Strength*	Weakness	Opportunity*	Threat	Need more info
<p>To what extent do people fully consider promoting and supporting environmentally sustainable initiatives? Are there any gaps or opportunities to extend these actions?</p>	<p>Our research indicates that there is interest in reducing waste, recycling more materials, reducing energy use, conserving water supplies, buying locally produced food and other products and reducing car use.</p>				*		
<p>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?</p>	<p>Safe crossing places at convenient points around the Bypass, to enable pedestrians to have safe access to the surrounding countryside. Riverside footpaths to be extended and provide with seats and litter bins at suitable points. An extension of the wheelchair accessible stretch of the footpath and the creation of a section, which is safe for people with visual impairment. Family cycle routes away from traffic. Enhancement of design and use of the Red House Grounds. There were requests to improve lighting, provide seats/picnic tables/litter bins, flower beds and summertime events such as music.</p>				* * *		*



J5 MEETINGS WITH ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS

J5.1 Report on discussion with Jo Homan of Greenpeace, April 2005.

1. Ways to make the most of the river:

- Information panels beside the river
- Interpretative centre between Leisure Centre and river
- Chain ferry across to field by Leisure Centre from Mansion Gardens, to make a link between Minchin Close and Thorncroft and enable easy access to interpretative centre from town centre and station
- Fish viewing in Mansion Gardens Pond

2. Green projects:

- Orchards to grow locally sourced food
- Willow coppice on Barnett Wood Lane allotments to produce bean poles
- Working watermill at bottom of Bridge Street

3. Ways to promote biodiversity

- Wildlife corridors to join up areas of countryside; could be railway embankments or the river and its banks
- One of the local nurseries to sell wild plants

4. Way to promote interest in the countryside

- Schoolchildren to research history of local countryside, by interviewing local elderly people

5. Ways to improve access into the countryside

- Improve horse riding routes
- Improve bike routes
- Introduce a bike hiring scheme, possibly at the station
- Balloon rides across our countryside

J5.2 FWAG interview

Notes from telephone discussion with Ben Underwood of the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, on 30th September 2005.

I rang him to find out if the threat to our local countryside is as real as I think it is. His response was unequivocal and this is a brief summary of it.

Yes, there are several very real threats to our countryside.

- The value of land is high and there is both a need and a demand for more housing.
- Dairy farmers are being paid less for their milk than it costs to produce it. Mass marketing has driven down the price of food.
- The infrastructure, such as the abattoirs, is missing, which results in animals and produce being transported large distances and marketed as part of the supermarket system.
- The downland needs to be grazed, to retain its quality; otherwise it will degenerate into scrubland.
- Most farmers have expanded their land and reduced their labour force; this means that they cannot spare staff to man farmer's markets.
- The Surrey Hills produce is proving difficult to market.
- Agri-environment schemes offer grants from the Government to help farmers care for the environment.

The opportunity is the affluence of residents in this part of the world; the threat is the lack of infrastructure which prevents farmers from benefiting from this potential market.



J6 SUSTAINABILITY ANALYSIS

J6.1 Sustainability Questionnaire

This was delivered to 79 houses in Fetcham, Leatherhead and Ashted, to people who were of various socio-economic groups. The questions apply to whole households rather than to individuals. Sheila Hill and Heather Ward compiled the questionnaires, delivered them and collected them a few days later. We found enthusiasm for sustainability among all age groups. The only ones not willing to complete the questionnaire were, understandably, couples who were in employment and who had children, so had very little time to spare.

J6.2 Analysis of responses to the Sustainability Questionnaire

Section A: Heating your home

1. Which of the following methods have you used to reduce fuel bills at home?

- | | |
|--|--|
| a) Lagging the hot water tank | 56 |
| b) Insulating the loft space | 63 |
| c) Insulating cavity walls | 16 , plus one tenant who had no control over it |
| d) Using low energy light bulbs | 36 |
| e) Double glazing windows | 53 |
| f) Closing curtains in the evening | 66 |
| g) Turning off lights in empty rooms | 73 |
| h) One other suggestion – flooring the loft. | |

2. a) If you have central heating, which type do you have? Gas: **67**, Oil: **1**.
 b) Do you have a condensing flue boiler? Yes: **12**, don't know: **5**.
 c) At what temperature do you set your main thermostat? **Range mostly 18-20C**
 d) Do you leave the heating on all day or set the clock to switch on at set times?
On all day: 5, set times: 53
 e) Do you have thermostats on individual radiators? **Yes 41**
 f) If you feel cold, do you usually put a sweater on or turn up the heating?
Sweater on: 48

3. Of those who did not have central heating, 2 used gas, 1 electricity, 1 oil.

To supplement their central heating, 19 used gas, 8 used electricity, 1 used an oil heater and 2 used night storage heaters.

4. Would you consider having a solar panel installed to provide hot water?

Yes **39**, of which one over-75-year-old already had one.

5. Are you aware of government and local council grants available to encourage people to make their homes more energy efficient? Yes: **46**.

6. Have you received the energy saving questionnaire in the MVDC magazine?

Yes: **9**. Some had received it and not filled it in, others said they had not received it.

Ideas and comments:

- We would certainly have a solar panel if it were considerably subsidised: 1
- A solar panel would be too expensive: 2. Yes, would like if no extra cost
- I'm in a rented property so I'm limited in what I'm allowed to do: 1.



- To save heat: no open plan areas, in order to reduce draughts. Add a porch to the front of the house. Use draught excluders. Fix a shelf over the radiator with the curtain touching it, to stop heat escaping at night. 1.
- Electricity, water and trees are used in the production of junk mail and advertising and also in the property newspaper. A high tax on the production and distribution of these would reduce the use of resources. (He attached the bundle of junk mail that he had received that day inside his freebie newspaper. I asked him if he wanted to stop taking the freebie, but he likes receiving that, just doesn't want what comes with it.) 1.
- Don't leave appliances on 'stand-by'
- Use 'full' & 'half load' settings on washing machine (for efficiency)
- Would like better insulation to windows, heavier curtains, loft insulation
- Leave central heating on all day in winter, but adjust individual radiators
- Provide school buses
- Only use central heating when needed
- Use heat generated in kitchen to help heat rest of house
- Some street lights are 'on' all day

Section B: Water and Electricity Saving

1. Which of the following measures have you taken to reduce the amount of water used in your household?

- a) Taking showers instead of baths: **54**
- b) Putting a brick in the toilet cistern or installing dual flush: **14**
- c) Flushing the toilet less often: **35**
- d) Always using the plug in hand basins: **42**
- e) Only heating the amount of water you need in a kettle: **62**
- f) Repairing dripping taps: **54**
- g) Only using hand held cans or hoses to water the garden: **59**

2. Indicate which of the following appliances you own and roughly how many times you use them in a typical week.

Washing machine	once	18	twice	24	more	23
Tumble drier	once	12	twice	9	more	11
Dishwasher	once	5	twice	6	more	17
Power shower	once	1	twice	2	more	20

b) When choosing white goods, do you take account of the efficiency rating? Yes: **50**

c) Do you have a water meter? Yes: **28**

d) Do you have an off peak electricity meter that enables you to use appliances like washing machines at off peak times at almost a third of the cost per unit of electricity? Yes: **17**

Comments about our water supply:

I think the water supply is excellent. 1

We do not water the garden. 1

The filthy great hangar on Hawks Hill could be covered by a combination of Virginia creeper, wisteria and old man's beard. 1

Thames Water should be fined more for leaky water pipes. 1

I use my bath water to water the garden. 1



LEATHERHEAD *Tomorrow*

The leak in the pipe in Oxshott on the way to Esher has now been going for 2 years to my knowledge. 1
 Separate surface water drainage from other drainage for use on golf courses and car washes. 1
 Discourage the use of dishwashers in small families. 1
 Can anything be done to soften the supply; the water is very hard in this area. 1
 Without using my (*hand held*) hosepipe I would lose my home-grown veg after lots of work and at 64 it would be too much. 1
 Knowing how excessively some people water their gardens, making water meters compulsory would solve lots of problems. 1
 Encourage the use of water butts for garden use. 1
 Make the public aware of all the plants that require little water. 1 ()
 Water Board should mend leaking pipes 3
 Why do different areas pay different water rates?
 Should change costs to encourage more water meters
 Water Board's building (*in Hawks Hill*) an intrusion on landscape. Poorly integrated into landscape. Should be screened.
 Additives in water? – can smell chlorine
 New building of blocks of flats – increasing water use
 Waste of water running taps to adjust temperature – use for watering plants
 Firms using a lot of water e.g. car washing should not have a preferential rate
 Hose pipe restrictions should be imposed when necessary
 Water should be charged by number of people in property
 Use water sparingly

Section C: Shopping

1. Which of the following considerations are most likely to influence your choice of goods?

Known brand	52	Special offers	59
Cheapness	23	Bulk buys	8
Quality of goods	66	Attractive packaging	1
Fair Trade source	25	Other: ingredients/additives:	1
		Recommendations from friends or of Which? magazine:	1

2. When you have a choice of similar products or facilities, which option would you be most likely to choose in the following situations?

British produced	59	or	Imported goods
Local producer	42	or	National brand product
Supermarket once a week	54	or	Local shops every day or so
Farmers' market	35	or	High Street shops
On-line or mail order	18	or	Major shopping centre
Organic products	27	or	Non organic goods
Packaged greengrocery		or	Loose fruit and vegetables 52

3. Do you look at the "Best Before" date when you buy perishable goods? Yes: **77**

4. Do you usually throw away unused food when it is past its "Best Before" date? Yes: **55**

5. Do you actively avoid buying food that has excessive packaging? Yes: **41**

6. What suggestions do you have, for making shopping in Leatherhead more environmentally friendly?

Easier parking and trolleys at Sainsbury's to avoid having to drive to Tesco. 1



Make Sainsbury's decent so we don't have to travel to Tesco. 1
 Free parking as in Cobham – charges are too high. 1
 Restricted spaces in supermarket parking. 1
 The choice of shops in Leatherhead is so poor; one has to go elsewhere for anything major; there is little except banks, estate agents and charity shops. 1
 The market could be encouraged with more than one of each type of stall, such as 3 or 4 clothes stalls, 3 or 4 fruit and vegetables. 1
 Lack of specialist shops - butchers and fishmongers etc. 9
 A covered seating area near the town centre, with a small refreshment bar, where buses could wait for 10 minute or so. Would become a point for pick-ups too. People could sit and chat, there could be notices up about coming events, there could also be toilets. 2
 Small variety packs for elderly on their own as well as family savers in supermarkets, especially vegetables and meat. 1
 Charge for plastic bags in shops. 1
 Tram route between Tesco and High Street. 1
 No cars in High Street 4
 Cheap or free short term parking near High Street 3
 Too much packaging and plastic bags
 Home delivery of local produce
 24 hour security in Swan Centre
 More environmental friendly products in shops
 'Supermarkets have brought havoc to this town – Swan Centre has ruined Leatherhead. Improve the parking. Totally pedestrianised High St. Improve the one-way system. Link between Church St and Bridge St for cars. Car owners should stop using the High St as a car park. It is just laziness. They often park on both sides of the High St so that when traffic is passing, pedestrians are obliged to step into the road.
 If Sainsbury's had a free car park, I wouldn't have to waste petrol going out to Tesco.
 I find the greed of supermarkets in dominating the market in areas where it is not necessary, not to say undesirable, such as pharmacy, insurance, clothing etc. I exclude Waitrose from this comment and I am happy to drive to Cobham and pay the few extra pence. 50p to park in Leatherhead is no help.

Your choice of car

- a) How many cars does your household own for normal use? **Average 1.3 cars per family**
- b) What sort of fuel does your main car use? **Diesel: 7, unleaded petrol: 59, LPG: 1.**
- c) When you change your car, does fuel efficiency influence your choice? **Yes: 52.**

Section D. Waste and recycling

1. Which of the following do you regularly recycle?

Paper	77	Recyclable plastics	60
Cardboard boxes	75	Shoes	32
Cans	71	Clothing	47
Glass bottles	64	Printer cartridges	23

2. If there were a choice between replacing a broken or worn part of a household appliance or buying a new machine, which option would you normally choose?

- Repair if possible: **48**
- Depends on cost 1.
- Depends on cost, age of appliance, reliability of appliance, ease of repair **1.**

3. Which of the following products do you choose to buy instead of equivalent consumable products?

- a) cotton handkerchiefs: **34**, reusable shopping bags: **34**
- b) Do you reuse plastic bags? Yes: **67**
- c) If possible, do you choose to buy recycled paper products? Yes: **44**

4. If your household includes a baby, do you use disposable nappies?

- a) All the time: **6**, Frequently: **2**, never: **1.**



b) Which of the following options might persuade you to change your current pattern of use? Reliable nappy laundering service: **if cheap 1**; biodegradable disposable nappies: **4**.

- 5 a) Do you compost garden waste? Yes: **44**
- b) Do you compost organic household waste? Yes: **19**
- c) Do you find the MVDC wheelie bins helpful? Yes: **48**

Comments about the MVDC recycling scheme and how it might be improved:

The green bin is not big enough to hold all the plastic bottles. 1
 It would be better if the green bin was for garden waste and a box was provided for paper, cans, plastic bottles, glass and aluminium foil. 1
 Collect glass from homes instead of people having to drive CAR to recycling skips. 3.
 I would like glass bottles and jars to be collected—how do people without cars dispose of them? 2
 I do not have a wheelie bin as the council does not allow me. I have to keep rubbish in the cupboard outside the front door and I get maggots because it is only picked up every other week. 1
 I would like black bins emptied weekly. **14**
 Green bins OK. Black bins need collecting every week in summer. Flies create maggots which create flies. 1
 In summer a stinking health risk stops windows being opened and pollutes the air. 1
 MVDC could save money by collecting recycling once a month, but every week for rubbish is essential. 1
 Best recycling scheme ever experienced. 1
 As in Ireland, we should be made to pay for plastic bags. 1
 Suggest the fly tipping hotline number be advertised near green and wooded areas so people can report fly tipping. 1
 Pensioners need grants for roofing repairs and replacements
 Re-cycling plant at back of Kingslea is an environmental health hazard
 Services in MV are deteriorating – libraries, public transport
 Whole area is defaced by wheelie bins in front gardens
 Green bins are an excellent idea
 Community charge is high enough
 Flats have no storage space for keeping glass etc for re-cycling
 Linden Court Residents have been refused Wheelie bins

J7 ENVIRONMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

This annex is based on 34 completed questionnaires. The main recipients had been members of the Leatherhead & District Countryside Protection Society. When comparing number of responses, note that not everyone answered all of the questions.

1. How do you feel about the character and attractiveness of the town?

Summary assessment of the responses can be categorised as:

Improving	(16)
Ambivalent - 50/50	(11)
Negative	(7)

Comments:

Greatly improved since days when it was dangerous to walk the narrow pavements in the High street
 Improving after 20 miserable years
 Getting there but needs a 'heart' and we need to show it to people in cars



Ironworks and improved alleyways now part of character
Has managed to retain much of its character with pedestrianisation, though traffic needs better controls
Poor shop fascias belie historic town at the crossroads. Needs more style
Friendly, more like a village. Pity the road system cuts in two
Leatherhead is quite good - Ashted is very good
Mixed feelings. Swan Centre car park too difficult for me
Character destroyed and there is little attractiveness
Lacks shops and cohesion

2. Which, if any routes into the town are in poor condition or create a poor impression and why?

Kingston Road headed the list with 9 nominations. Reasons given were:

Generally very scruffy
Shabby mixed residential, commercial and industrial premises
Plough roundabout area.
Forecourt and road alongside ambulance station
Unkempt frontages of taxi and fish and chip premises
Street parking creates congestion

Entrance to North Street at old Bull Hotel shabby (2)
All of them, especially Leret Way (2)
The one way system (2)
Parking on Gimcrack Hill gives poor impression
Randalls Road
Guildford Road - poorly directed to town centre
Road system says "Keep out of Leatherhead"
Each entry starts to bring you in BUT then drives you out of town fast on the one way system
Visitor signage needs addressing; confusing
Road conditions are generally poor - visitors from S. Wales and overseas are appalled.

3. What are your views on the pedestrianised High Street and Church Street areas?

Summary assessment of the responses can be categorised as:

For	(16)
Yes but - 50/50	(12)
Against	(6)

Comments:

Fully in favour, an excellent innovation and needs consolidating
Great improvement - retain or we shall rarely visit
Works well, but no more muddled thinking about decoration
High Street great with cafe/restaurant tables and chairs outside
Keep arrangements for vehicle entry as at present
Upper High Street very good; Church Street less so
Concept fine but needs better cleaning and surface maintenance
Like it but too much for size of town



High Street is not fully pedestrianised; cars parked during the day
Like the pedestrianisation but why not all the day?
Attractive potential if keep right balance of shops and restaurants
Too much clutter
I'm against it as was main reason for decline in business
Ridiculous - let's have through traffic but no street parking
Unfriendly - should have one way streets with High Street opening into the town
People by-pass the town centre and don't realise it is a shopping area

4. How would you like the High Street to look in 2 years time?

The responses mainly reflected those given to the previous question. People want to keep the High Street pedestrianised in some form. Other requests were:

More independent retail shops (9)
More flowers, shrubs and trees (5)
More active street scene with more social activities (4)
More seating (4)
A one way street with short term parking bays (4)
As is but remove the ramps and railings (2)
Open at both ends with attractive roundabouts full of flowers
More appropriate street lighting
Remove the betting shop and open up to join the Swan Centre with the High Street

5. Which, if any, areas of the town are over cluttered with signs, street furniture, advertising?

More people said it wasn't a problem or issue for them or did not respond than those nominating any one item.

Bull Hill/Leret Way/Station Road signs confusing and traffic a nightmare (5)
High Street pavement advertising boards (4)
High Street/Leret Way/Epsom Road/Church Road - too many signs and flyposting (3)
Signs at all entrance points (2)
Church Street pretty bad (2)
Everywhere too many signs; what we want is speed limit shown
Signs - an impression but mostly necessary due to messy road system and awkward car parks
Welcome to Leatherhead signs are in dangerous locations for pedestrians
High Street lighting and awful design
Ramps and wrought iron confusing to navigate and detract from views up and down Bridge Street.



6. Which, if any, buildings or places are eyesores that could be improved and how?

There were clear nominations of eyesores but few solutions proposed.

Bull Hotel site (7)	-a really nice hotel would be ideal
	-a bank of grass and simple flower beds
Theatre fly tower (7)	-demolish or paint in neutral colour
Swan Centre car park (5)	-demolish and rebuild to user friendly design
	- have outward facing shops of good design
	- excavate to provide extra level
	- keep cleaner near the lifts
Depot site, Bull Hill (3)	
Pumping Station (3)	- demolish if not used; no architectural merit
High Street ramps (2)	
More and Argos shop fronts (2)	- compel to make their prime frontages attractive
Waterways Road bridge	
New office block, Station Road	
Harvester site	

Hardly any buildings worth keeping except the mansion
Mostly quite attractive

7. How could we make more of the open spaces such as Red House Grounds and the Mansion Gardens?

Red House Grounds	- should be a park (3); to give town air of spaciousness
	- should have flower beds (2), looked after by local community group
	- more of a park where people can sit
	- make more attractive - fountain, flowerbeds and seats
	- open up on edge and make it safe at night
	- a musical event (silver band) and flower shows
	- build a tennis court
	- underground car park for rail users with gardens above
Mansion Gardens	- more visible access other than through building
	- clear signs to gardens and river
	- more and better parking
	- river area below gardens - flower beds and summer tea room
	- lived here for 40 years and didn't know there were gardens one could use
Millpond	- regard and develop as a nature reserve, likewise adjacent meadow
Common Meadow	- create better access
General	- simply landscape them properly
	- didn't know they existed
	- is any use made of them?
	- don't clutter with offices or maisonettes - use for open spaces or landscaped car parks if suitable
	- more strategic approach needed - communities aren't formed by this sort of thing



8. What links are there between the activities in the town and the surrounding countryside, and how could they be strengthened?

12 questionnaires were returned without a response to this question and more people gave ideas on how to strengthen than named any links.

Links:

Don't know of any links (3)
Rambblers come to the town by train and start walks into the countryside from here
Many residents enjoy tranquil walks along the river into the countryside - don't change
Few links but no need to strengthen
The theatre used to be

How to strengthen:

Improve the public transport links (4)
Create more walkways (3)
Make more of the Leisure Centre grounds
For those walking along the riverside, sign to Leisure Centre cafeteria/bar
Have minibus trips to Polesden Lacey
A well designed display in the High Street showing the Tannery, Polesden Lacey etc.
Organise lectures on places of interest in the town and countryside
More town and country walks
A nature trail through the Reserve
Pedestrian crossing of A24 at end of Downs Way
Farm shops and pick your own outlets
Permanent outlet in town for local produce
Preserve the countryside and revive the town

9. If you would like to go for a walk in the country, could you do so without a car?

Yes (24)
No (8)
With difficulty (2)

10. If "No" or "With difficulty", why is that?

Age (4)
Too far (2)
Limited mobility
Lazy - like to start where intend to walk dog, not street walk to get there
Road to country too hilly and busy with traffic
From Fetcham most approach roads without pavements
Area around the town is too built up
Need safe footpath/cycle path along Young Street

One person who answered "Yes" added - more choice by car.



11. Which green open space is nearest your home and how could it be improved?

Some people gave more than one answer; 5 gave no answer.

<u>Space</u>	<u>Improvement</u>
Norbury Park (7)	Keep as natural as possible without so called improvements Keep as is (2) Already excellent
Bookham Common (7)	More parking at top of Young Street No improvement needed (3) Keep footpaths clear of brambles
The Mill Pond (3)	Increase number of paths Cut back bushes and make open space safer Planned work by S&ESWC may provide opportunity
Fetcham Downs (3)	Provide more footpaths and signposts
Red House Grounds (2)	Being improved Too open
River Mole (2)	Keep banks clear of overgrowth; some seats Control drinking and vagrant fires
Fetcham Splash	Cut grass and install picnic tables; signpost at Cobham Road/River Lane junction
Disused field near Fire Station	Make into a sports area [note: this is a nature reserve]
Ashted Common	Well managed already
The Hermitage & Dick Fox Common	Forestry Commission
Bocketts Farm	Even more sheep!
Polesden Lacey estate	
Mickleham Downs	
Commonside recreation ground	
Forty foot Park	
Sheeples	
The Hazels	

Other comments:

Stop urban sprawl
Attend to area within Church Road and Little Bookham Street
Remove the gypsies from Green Belt near the crematorium

12. How could we make more of the River Mole?

All but 2 respondents had a view to express.

Extend footpaths on both sides (4)
Better and easier walks free from overgrowth and garbage (3)
Benches/seats to enjoy views and wildlife (3)
Picnic tables on the banks (3)
More/better signposts (3)
Dredge silted areas/clean regularly of weeds (3)
A riverside path from Common Meadow to Fetcham Splash and Slyfield (2)



LEATHERHEAD *Tomorrow*

- Keep as is for tranquil walks (2)
- Improved pedestrian access and approach in bridge area (2)
- Create a footpath to Dorking and Cobham along riverside
- Bring footpath from Common Meadow to south side to make access from Leatherhead to Fetcham easier
- A bridge from Fetcham
- Stiles must be useable by the elderly
- Attract more wildlife to islands - otters, red squirrels
- Jeremy Early's plan boards showing wildlife
- Open up the views
- Clear rubbish
- Monitor water quality
- Keep the weirs in good repair
- Raise the level with weirs for boating, with adjacent cafes etc.
- More events like duck racing and candle floating - annual fete in Thorncroft grounds
- A play area
- One or two attractive cafes with terraces near the Bridge
- A riverside pub
- Footbridge across to the island with circular path and simple snack bar in season
- Build restaurant at new Leisure Centre facing the river
- Provide water features

13. To what extent do you consider the following in your everyday life?

	A lot	Quite a lot	Very little
Reducing waste and recycling	25	9	
Energy conservation; renewable energy	13	15	6
Use of locally produced food products (not all answered)	9	10	11
Reducing the use of cars	3	14	17

14. What changes could be made to improve the local environment?

A wide interpretation was given to this question in some instances.

- Reduce the use of cars and speeding (3)
- More children to walk to school
- Regular litter picking (2), verge cutting
- More street cleaning and repair of potholes (2)
- Keep the town safe, clean and well maintained
- Make areas like Leatherhead Station safer - CCTV, lighting, policing
- Neighbourhood policing (2)
- More seats for elderly, infirm or pregnant (2), including in shops with window sticker which says "We Care with a Chair"
- Make High Street fully pedestrianised
- Redesign the one way system that forces traffic "to do the rounds"
- Open up Leatherhead to through traffic and more parking (20 - local commerce will do the rest!)



Attract more small shops, like Ashtead
Give high profile and be proud of local charities
More car parks near footpaths to encourage country walking
More roadside trees
Keep Mill Pond area as a nature reserve - move miniature railway and associated parking
Stop long term street parking/provide cheap long term car parks (2)
Better and free car parks
Remove all traffic bumps - very noisy
Reduce Barnett Wood Lane bumps so people don't Bypass Leatherhead
Improve roads, access and car parking in the centre
Stop overdevelopment
Allow local authority to regulate planning, not Central Government or SEERA
Good planning and strict control of existing bye laws
Disagree with our water company selling water to extent we have to have hose pipe ban
More independent Councillors; more considerate Councillors
Get away from present piecemeal approaches
Cut down on light pollution
No more runways at Gatwick or Heathrow
Ban night flights
Discourage biker's noise on the A24
Replacement of damaged traffic bollards
Replace posts that protect verge in River Lane

One respondent, instead of answering the questions, wrote across them and this is a summary.

Leatherhead hardly merits being called a market town (small). It has lost its importance as a centre for the group of villages, which can now supply their own needs and look elsewhere for other retail things.

Starting with the Research Centres and now the many new offices, they bring people in with no affinity to the town. Hence the growth of restaurants, cafes, sandwich and snack bars to provide for them.

Leatherhead needs to create its own identity not possessed elsewhere locally, with trades others don't have - a centre for individualists, craftsmen, and specialist trades - creative rather than selling goods from elsewhere. Also revive the theatre and make better use of the Institute for intellectual pursuits.

The town needs a complete rethink rather than tinkering.