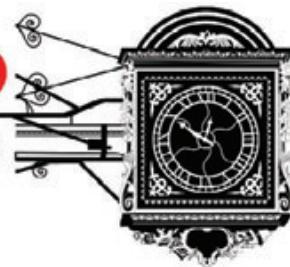


Allies & Morrison Drop In by GVG

Saturday 29th September 2012

GUILDFORD
VISION GROUP



In just over two hours, more than 250 people took the time to offer comments on how Guildford and its town centre should change to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

High on the agenda was tackling traffic congestion, integrating modes of transport, reducing surface parking and opening up the river for the enjoyment of all. Many summed up their views with a demand for better town planning and more visionary design.

"This was just a taster to show people how their opinions might be used to shape plans for the town" says John Rigg, chairman of GVG. "Allies & Morrison very kindly gave of their time freely to help run the consultation which was put together in a short time and we were very pleased with the result. We hope to organise another larger, more comprehensive consultation exercise at a later date."

Participants were able to see two large posters illustrating how an area of the town might look if fully pedestrianised, and how the river corridor might be opened up attractively for the public to enjoy. On another large poster depicting an aerial shot of the town, people were able to 'post' their comments on particular locations. GVG recorded almost 350 separate comments.

"It was really interesting to learn what people saw as the main issues for Guildford and its town centre," says Bill Stokoe, GVG steering group member. "We've completed a first analysis of the key issues recorded on the day and it's no surprise traffic and traffic-related issues are top of their concerns. There was also a strong desire to see more pedestrianisation and a better experience for those on foot – visitors, shoppers and residents alike. Overall, there was just a desire to see better town planning, better design and better consultation."

GVG believes competition with other towns for business - retail, commercial, industrial, and leisure opportunities – means the town has to respond to the challenge if its economic future is to be secure and sustainable.

For more information see www.guildfordvisiongroup.com



Could Onslow Street be pedestrianised?
How can we open up the river?
Just two ideas by Allies & Morrison.

