

The Guildford Vision Group Manifesto 2015

We call on all Guildford Borough prospective councillor candidates in May 2015 to firmly pledge to:



GIVE THE TOWN CENTRE BACK TO PEOPLE THROUGH THE MASTERPLAN!

Councillors must commit to setting the bar high in pursuing the town's true potential.

More & better pedestrianisation

There must be a more attractive car-free route from the station to the heart of the town. Pedestrian routes must take advantage of the town's riverside setting, with good connecting access to and from transport hubs, car parks and new cycle ways.

Take cars out of the centre

Find ways to route across & through town traffic away from Bridge & Onslow Streets. If it means a new bridge over the railway, make the bold commitment.

Link the main parts of town by boulevards & cycleways

Pedestrian and cycling routes should join up all parts of the town, especially major assets such as the Cathedral, Hospital, Research Park and University. Attractive landscaping would make these routes a pleasure to enjoy.

Liberate the riverside

Pledge to liberate the riverside from buildings that turn their backs to the water, or car parks that deny real enjoyment of the water's edge. The riverside must become a real public asset - a leisure and pleasure draw - with accessible towpaths, restaurants and cafés that make time by the river a really great experience.

Build new houses on Brownfield sites along the River

Guildford needs new housing to accommodate natural growth. Good masterplanning would provide a splendid residential area along Walnut Tree Close & Woodbridge Meadows. It would be handy for travel & town and people could enjoy a lovely linear riverside park.

Plan for Balance and Quality

We need good design standards for development and applaud the Council's appointment of Design South East (DSE). Early-stage consultative design for major projects is critical so DSE's remit should run through pre and post planning application stages, with meaningful public consultation throughout. Thus we would hope to gain a small number of new significant town centre buildings that really stand the test of time.

Pay proper homage to our heritage

New buildings should sit happily alongside the many heritage assets enjoyed by the town. Scale and form should be sympathetic to Guildford's magnificent history and gap town location.

Respect our glorious Green Belt setting

Guildford's glorious Green Belt setting, plus Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, can be seen from many vantage points in the town centre. All new development should enhance, not impair, these lovely views.

Sustain richness of culture and social interaction

Guildford must retain all the positive elements of a great destination. It must remain a people place – a place to mix, to live, to work and to enjoy. Its cultural assets must be as valuable as those of its commercial enterprises. It is the human face of Guildford that will ultimately determine its future.

About Guildford Vision Group (GVG)

GVG formed in early 2012 to urge GBC to masterplan the town centre. In 2013 GBC committed to a professional masterplan. Work on the second stage is now underway. The emerging plan must be aspirational and deliverable. See more at guildfordvisiongroup.com