

## **Guildford Vision Group – A better Plan, A Better Guildford**

Guildford Vision Group (GVG) is a group of local residents, formed in 2012 to promote the urgent need for a long term vision for Guildford Town Centre. From the outset GVG called on Guildford Borough Council (GBC) to draw up a Masterplan. This was finally achieved and approved in March 2016. But GBC has not yet formally adopted it.

The need for new infrastructure lies at the heart of the town centre vision. There is a huge infrastructure deficit. The past three decades have seen little or no substantial improvement to the town centre. The decades before provided some dire development; the focus then being on cars and concrete.

GVG wants the town and its businesses to retain sustainable vitality over the next 30 years and beyond. That's why GVG has produced its Plan.

### **What GVG's Plan Delivers**

GVG set six objectives for an adopted Masterplan; GVG's detailed Plan delivers on each one:

1. Wider pedestrianisation of the town centre
2. Exciting new public space and a reinvigorated riverside
3. Redirection of traffic away from the town centre
4. An integrated road and rail hub
5. More town centre housing
6. A new and better East-West link

### **GVG Wants Great Development**

Overleaf our detailed Plan adds flesh to the bones of the Masterplan vision. GVG wants carefully co-ordinated development that is in tune with Guildford's setting and history.

GVG wants development that makes a great architectural contribution that reinvigorates the riverside, provides great public realm and re-establishes our town as a great place in which to work, live and spend leisure time.

Our Plan includes nearly 3,000 new homes. We think the station area, all along Walnut Tree Close and Woodbridge Meadows, is a great place for new housing. The flooding risk can be managed.

But we maintain development must be in tune with its setting, adjacent as it is to the established conservation areas.

### **Our Plan Reflects GVG's Campaigning**

#### **1. *We need the new rail/river crossing***

Our new East/West crossing over the railway and the river, linking York Rd with Guildford Park Rd diverts a massive amount of traffic, and removes the need for the infamous gyratory.

The new link enables a range of key developments in the town. It reunites town and riverside, with the latter opened up for people to enjoy. It allows pedestrians to have priority in the centre. It allows Onslow St to host comprehensive bus facilities and creates an essential transport hub at the railway station.

#### **2. *Make more of the town pedestrian-friendly***

Over 200 major towns and cities have adopted wide pedestrianisation of their town centres. It makes for a pleasant, safe, and inviting environment.

Traffic and people just don't mix. Our Plan moves the traffic away from the town centre and keeps

people safer. People and pollution shouldn't mix either, so that's another reason for our new route.

#### **3. *A better transport hub***

Our Plan delivers integrated transport via a reconfigured station, on both sides of the tracks, allowing for co-ordinated bus and train services. We've made space for new platforms, new homes and offices as well as better passenger facilities. Thanks to our crossing, new bus interchange halts can be sited in both Bridge St and Onslow St, right by the Friary, and handy for either shopping, work or leisure.

### **The GVG People**

The core GVG working group is almost entirely made up of long-term residents with relevant professional experience. Over 200 people attend our public meetings – a substantial supportive following.

GVG is independent, and has no political affiliations or vested interests. It lobbies and works collaboratively with all parties and interests, both public and private, in pursuit of its objectives.

### **GVG Calls For Action and Open Debate**

We hope you liked these proposals. They will not happen by chance. Guildford must get its act together now. Let's have the debate. As Guildford dithers, congestion will mean business and people will vote with their feet. Some have already done that. Accidents and pollution continue. If you support us, if you like our Plan, tell your local councillor. Your support matters. Only the Council can set in train the features and benefits we seek, via a carefully-crafted strategy and professional 'big ticket' delivery vehicle.

**Contact:** [action@guildfordvisiongroup.com](mailto:action@guildfordvisiongroup.com)

Some shots from the GVG Plan 'Flythrough' that can be seen and heard in full on our website [www.guildfordvisiongroup.com](http://www.guildfordvisiongroup.com)



0397 Guildford | Vision Masterplan: View 01 - Town Wharf



0397 Guildford | Vision Masterplan: View 02 - Bedford Square



0397 Guildford | Vision Masterplan: View 03 - St Saviour's Square



0397 Guildford | Vision Masterplan: View 04 - Station Crossing

