



## Feedback to Paddock Wood Neighbourhood Plan Town Centre Group

February 2017

The information below is largely feedback from Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers in Paddock Wood, which has been added to with feedback to Youth council from other groups.

The information has been gathered following discussion Barbara Giles from the Town Centre Group, who asked Youth Council questions with the aim of focusing discussions on the terms of reference for the Town Centre Group.

### What shops would you like to see in the Town?

- WH Smiths/Smiggle (stationary)\*
- Superdrug/Boots\*
- Swap shop
- Music shop\*/Gaming shop
- New Look\*/Top Shop\*/Claire's/Shoe shop/Sports shop\*
- Waterstones/bookshop\* (with café) (*mentioned by all groups*)
- McDonalds/Starbucks
- Garden Centre/Wedding place\*\*
- Tea Room/Deli/Non-greasy cafes
- Swimming Pool
- Sweet shop\*
- Wig shop
- Toy shop\*
- Shops that aren't chains/independents
- Nice bar/restaurant/family pub\*
- Bakery (not Greggs) that you can sit and eat in

**\* These are the most popular suggestions**

**\*\* We need to publicise the facilities at edge of the town such as Paddock Wood Garden Centre & the Wedding Shop at Hop Farm – they might become reasons for visiting the town itself**

### How do you see Paddock Wood Developing?

Guides: *'The girls are very against the development plans that have been approved for PW - they were really passionate and adamant that they didn't want PW to be over-developed, as they don't want to lose the history of the town or the community feel. They don't want more houses to be built because they don't want to lose the parks and fields, and also to protect the wildlife that lives in those areas.'*

- Modernise it, update the library, get a restaurant that is not run down
- More bins, lamp posts & clean toilets

- Better shops and places to eat, a good family pub/restaurant (*most common answer*)
- Have a nice nature park (*need to advertise Foalhurst Wood*)
- Decorate it at different times of the year, make it more colourful (Dutch bench idea) & have attractive signage
- Need to have signage that tells people passing through about the Town Centre
- More advertising within/about shops
- Decorated windows like Barsley's
- Better parking
- Have seating and stalls in the open/in town centre
- Town centre should include Maidstone Road
- Youth café/centre
- Business start-ups for young people/entrepreneurs
- Better cycle and walking routes into town
- Would like to see Community Gardens, perhaps near community centre or allotments

#### **What do you want Paddock Wood to be known for?**

- Hops/hop pickers
- Barsley's
- A place for young people to start in business
- Safe place
- Footpaths/bridleways for outside walks/riding
- Foalhurst Wood

#### **Why should people come to Paddock Wood?**

- 2nd PW Guides!
- Good schools
- scenery
- good parks – places to have fun
- bigger towns nearby - good central place to live, can also get to London & Europe easily thanks to the station
- It is interesting
- It is not as busy as Tunbridge Wells
- Railway
- Barsleys
- War Memorial
- Waitrose
- Local village shops – e.g. Hardware shop
- Evenden cycle shop

#### **What makes Paddock Wood a good/special place to live?**

- Good schools (mentioned several times)
- Nice neighbourhood
- Not noisy
- Good clubs
- Running tracks
- Good weather
- Houses are pretty safe
- Close to school and friends

- Just a good place to live
- Nothing – it is run down & there are no good shops
- People are rude & intimidating
- People use drugs
- 'I would move away if my friends didn't live here'

The older age group tended to give negative feedback about the town, which reflects the lack of facilities for 11 to 18 year olds.

**What is your vision for Paddock Wood?**

- Clean & friendly
- Colourful and lively
- Great place to meet friends with places to go