



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.

1: Introduction to the task

Most market towns and their surrounding countryside contain environmental and historic features that help give the town a special character. Some of these may be well managed and in good repair; others may be neglected or in poor repair. Your task should cover both the built and the natural environment. You should also consider what activities are being undertaken by local groups to improve the environment and try to build on these activities. Keep in mind that at the end of the process, you will be making your recommendations for an action plan of achievable projects and the information you collect and record should provide the rationale for your recommendations. In summary:

- Find any information you can about existing plans for the town. Are there any concerns about wider environmental issues which may affect the town?
- Think about what is distinctive about the town's environment (both natural and built).



2. Getting the following information will help you decide what is special about the environment of the area

| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
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| <i>Sub-section 1: Description of the environmental features of the area</i> | | |
| <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>The parish is spread across a valley and the hill slopes on either side: Great Missenden along the Misbourne river valley; Prestwood and Heath End along the ridge above it to the west; South Heath and Ballinger along the hill top and plateau to the east.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maps or aerial photographs • Local knowledge | <p>Q 2 Are there any distinctive features that define the limits of the town?</p> <p><i>For example, are there historic city walls, or a river or bypass?</i></p> | <p>The A413 Missenden bypass defines the east side of the Great Missenden settlement; otherwise no specific defining features.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>There are various land mark trees and woodlands in the Parish. The Chilterns Special Trees project, being run under the auspices of the Chilterns Conservation Group, is attempting to record historic, unusual and landmark trees and woodlands as a step towards protecting them. Both Great Missenden and Prestwood have open grounds, the Buryfield and Prestwood Common; they are kept mown and relatively litter free but both are used by weekend football clubs, which inevitably damages the turf and restricts activities for other users. Boug's Meadow, beside the River Misbourne, is being cared for by Prestwood Nature and the Chalk Streams Project, again a Conservation Board</p> |



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| | | <p>programme which covers the full length of the river. Missenden Abbey park is let out for grazing but is generally attractive and cared for, with a permissive footpath along the stream.</p> |
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| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Wildlife Trust • Local Biodiversity Action Plan | <p>Q 4 Biodiversity:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What areas (if any) are important for local biodiversity? b. 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>The parish as a whole lies within the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and is hence recognised as important because of its distinctive local biodiversity. AONB status confers some protection and a general duty on the part of local authorities to ‘have regard’ to the aim of conserving and enhancing the natural environment. Agricultural stewardship schemes have raised the profile of conservation of the natural environment and biodiversity among farmers and land-owners which is being reflected in practice. Angling Springs wood has been/ is being designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest: that it is ancient woodland is evidenced by the presence in it of three rare slug species, for example the ‘slender’ or ‘lemon’ slug</p> |
| Sub-section 2: Built features of the town | | |
| <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>The parish includes five distinct settlements: Great Missenden – charter granted in 1133 but probably the village then lay round the church and was subsequently moved to the valley bottom, possibly because the climate became drier and or drainage was improved. The village heart is now the High Street and Church Street, which was the route through to South Heath and Chesham before the toll road and bypass were built. There is extensive recent building leading out from these roads, including up Martinsend Lane, at the top of which it joins up with Prestwood High Street. Prestwood is newer; before the nineteenth century there was a hamlet called Martin’s End at the edge of the extensive Prestwood Common. The effective centre is the crossroads by the Chequers Pub, Chequers Parade shops and village hall, and Giles Gate on the site of the former Farmer Giles meat factory. The church</p> |



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| | | <p>was built in 1849 on the Peterley side of the common. The settlement is strung out along the ridge from Peterley to Hotley Bottom and from Honorend Lane to its junction with Martinsend Lane. In the middle the Common was largely built over from the 1960s, first to accommodate London overspill and then by the Lovell Estate. Together Great Missenden and Prestwood make up the largest settlement actually inside the AONB. Heath End is an adjunct of Great Kingshill. South Heath's heart is probably at the cross roads formed by Kings Lane, Potter Row and Ballinger Road. There is an open space there and along part of Kings Lane. Again this was just a small hamlet so most building is relatively new and strung out along the Ballinger Road with more spacious building along Kings Lane and Potters Row. Ballinger's centre is at The Pheasant, now a gastro-pub, in the middle of the village but it is twentieth century – this was another hamlet and is spread along the main road with un-adopted roads leading off it.</p> |
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| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Council (ask for: Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, Local Plans) • Town Design Statement • Local history group • Area information office | <p>Q 6</p> <p>Where are the town's distinctive built landmarks and conservation areas, and are they are in good condition?</p> <p>Eg. Bridges, churches etc.</p> | <p>This question applies largely to Great Missenden. The High Street, Church Street, Missenden Abbey and its park make up the Conservation Area. The church which is Grade 1 listed, stands alone above the village and is well cared or. Church Street, including the area outside the school, Missenden Abbey – grade 1 listed – and the parkland are reasonably well maintained. The High Street contains numerous listed buildings, some very old. Councillor Nobby Clarke carried out an external survey of the buildings in 1990 and found them to be in reasonable condition: it is probably time for another. The High Street as a whole, despite its ancient character is not in good condition. This is in part due to excessive and unsympathetic signage – traffic and directional signs and also overhanging and wall-mounted shop signs; the chicanes with attendant excrescences; and overwhelming traffic and parking. Great Missenden Station is a good example of metropolitan architecture, but sadly the tree in the centre of the circle outside the door has been removed so that this area is bleak. The Hampden Monument at Prestwood is an important landmark; it lies on Honorend Lane to the north of Prestwood, with a magnificent view across the Hampden Valley, the land on which John Hampden refused to pay Ship Money, so triggering the Civil War. It is cared for by the John Hampden Society. Ballinger has a distinctive and well-used village hall.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Council • Town Council | <p>Q 7</p> <p>Development:</p> <p>a. What are the areas where there are rundown or derelict buildings needing repair or restoration?</p> | <p>Great Missenden: the area beside the station is bleak and unwelcoming; wire fencing round the car lots is ugly and detracts from the architectural merit of the area, as does the fencing dividing it from the car park.</p> |



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area information office | <p>b. What plans are there to revitalise or redevelop these areas/buildings?</p> | <p>There is an extensive infestation of Japanese knotweed in the boundary area between the motor company lot and Somerfields car park but both say the area does not belong to them. It has been suggested that it is a footpath and so the responsibility of the local authority. The pavement on the north side of Station Approach needs repaving to match it with the south side. The bollards alongside the pavement on the south side are ugly and there are too many of them. A more attractive solution should be sought. The area between the Library and Memorial Hall is a wasteland criss-crossed by muddy tracks. The large bins beside the path leading to the hall's front doors is unsightly and detracts from the hall itself. The Link Road car park is ugly, as are the public conveniences. The recycling area bins are not emptied often enough, so overflowing litter builds up. The teams responsible for clearing up after the recycling lorries often arrive before them which makes the litter problem worse. A public footpath runs across the car park to Boug's Meadow and the South Bucks Way – it is an unpleasant section of an otherwise beautiful walk. The footpath tunnels under the A413 are characterless concrete. The one by the school is the site of graffiti and was the location of an indecent assault in the past. The village centre is not cleaned often enough to maintain it as Grade A, which is its designation. Chewing gum adhering to the pavements is an eyesore. The road verges to and from the village seem not to be cleaned unless there is a specific complaint. The hump outside Barclays bank is ugly and should be removed. Prestwood: the power and phone lines running down both sides of the High Street are obtrusive and ugly and spoil what would otherwise be an attractively varied run of buildings and gardens. The corner of the High Street and Nairdwood Lane was used on a recent tour of the Chiltern</p> |
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Conservation Board as an example of unsightly clutter at what could be an attractive site. The area around the Chequers cross roads could also be made a much more attractive village centre. Parts of Holy Trinity church yard need clearing. The Common and District Council area next to Grims Dyke are rather barren-looking – a group of villagers are looking for funding and advice on how to make them prettier. The area outside the Hazell Road flats, especially round the shop and car park, is ugly and badly kept. Its scruffy and uncared for appearance may contribute to the problems of anti-social behaviour which have been noted there.

South Heath: a beautiful island of grass and trees running through the main lane is neglected. Parking takes place on the perimeter causing ruts and muddy patches. The area is rarely cleared by the authorities of fallen branches etc and as stated above the grass is not cut as often as would be desirable. It would be good to see some efforts made by District and County to ensure that this wooded area was maintained properly and kept clear of parked cars. These are causing erosion and irreparable damage to a community amenity. This area is owned by County but District are responsible for its maintenance. Neither will take responsibility for its good management.



| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Council (ask for Local Plan proposal map) • Local knowledge | <p>Q 8 What is the approximate range of uses of buildings in the town?</p> <p>Eg, are they majority residential? Or a mixture of shops/offices for example.</p> | <p>Through out the parish buildings are overwhelmingly residential. There is a village shop and garden centre in South Heath and a pub in Ballinger and on the main road to Chesham opposite Kings Lane in South Heath. Great Missenden and Prestwood have a range of shops and businesses including estate agents, doctors and hairdressers. The number of retail outlets is well in excess of offices but a lot of people work from home.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local survey • Town Design Statements • Local knowledge | <p>Q 9 Are the main routes into the town, including those from train and bus stations, attractive and in good condition? Do YOU find them attractive? Do you think visitors to your town would?</p> | <p>The roads in all parts of the parish are pot-holed, in some cases, such as the A413 at the roundabouts, because of recent poor resurfacing. In Prestwood there are numerous pot holes, although those from the church out towards Kingshill have recently been repaired there remains a problem of poor maintenance. Litter around Chequers Parade is a common complaint – there is always fish and chips packaging. Outside the Chequers pub is always a mess; the centre of village should be better cared for. In South Heath verges are generally clean, residents do pick up the odd bit of litter, but the few pavements are in a very poor state. I would say that they have never been refurbished since the houses were built in the 1950's. Kings Lane is in a deplorable condition, with pot holes, deep ruts and the edges falling away into the storm trenches. This is the route for the school coaches and part of the 'cycle route'; its condition indicates an accident waiting to happen. Roads through Ballinger are in a similar state. The roads are mostly attractive in appearance but some hedges are too high, restricting views, and litter clearance along the</p> |



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| | | verges does not seem to be done on a regular or frequent enough basis. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local survey • Town Design Statements • Local knowledge | <p>Q 10</p> <p>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? Do YOU feel safe using them?</p> | <p>In Great Missenden some people take a short cut from the Link Road car park across the grass beside the Library to the High Street or Memorial Hall. The resultant tracks are muddy and unattractive. This whole area is in the middle of the village. It should be developed, for example as a wild life garden, to improve its appearance and give it character. The area around the railway station is hazardous for pedestrians: there is no designated path from the station to Station Approach and no zebra crossing from west to east at the entrance to the station area. The refuge at the bottom of Station Approach is heavily used, especially by school children: it should be a zebra-crossing. Paths along the High Street are too narrow; vehicles, including heavy lorries, often mount the pavement to pass each other. Measures are required to create a safer and pleasanter environment for pedestrians and their well-being should take priority over traffic. The pavements along Wycombe Road, Prestwood, are also too narrow and the road is heavily used by traffic cutting through between Aylesbury and Wycombe. The pavement should be widened but NOT the road. People feel safe walking between car parks and centres in all parts of the parish.</p> |



| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local knowledge | <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>All the settlements have problems with pavements – they are badly maintained, too narrow, not cleaned often enough, not cleared of leaves in autumn, have overgrown hedges narrowing their width or ay combination of the foregoing. The appearance of both Great Missenden and Prestwood is less attractive than it could be. Both should be reviewed in terms of street fittings, signage, power lines etc and a plan for each drawn up to realise the potential of each to be attractive and in Great Missenden’s case, beautiful. Power lines in Prestwood have already been noted. In Great Missenden there is far too much clutter, including the chicanes and their bollards, obtrusive litter bins and signage. It should be cleared and only the most essential elements replaced. The chicanes should be made redundant by the proposed 20 mph speed limit and weight limit, which should apply to coaches as well as other traffic. These limits should be enforced. The High Street should be surfaced in a way which makes clear that pedestrians have priority over traffic and the pavements widened so that it is safe.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local knowledge Local survey | <p>Q 12 Which areas of the town (if any) do you think are over-cluttered with signs, street furniture, advertising hoardings, etc?</p> | <p>The Station Approach and Link Road roundabouts are a nightmare of signposts, as is the rest of the High Street. The whole area should be cleared of all signs and, actually or virtually, and only the most essential ones and the traditional pub signs replaced. West Wycombe is an example of a village which is heavily used by traffic but remains uncluttered and attractive.</p> |



Sub-section 3: Environmental issues for the town

| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local survey • Town/Parish Council • District Council • Local knowledge | <p>Q 13</p> <p>Do you know of any important environmental issues facing the town? Examples could be flooding dangers, pollution etc.</p> | <p>Developmental pressure: despite the fact that the Great Missenden parish is inside the AONB last year's Core Strategy document included Great Missenden and Prestwood with, e.g. Amersham and Chesham, (which are a) much larger and contain far more brown field sites; and b) not inside the AONB) as settlements in which the District's required 120 new houses a year should be built. The 120 requirement excludes 'windfall' developments so the implication is that clusters of 10 houses a year will be built as well as in-fill developments. Over the next decade this will have a significant impact on GM and P. Whilst AONB designation does not mean no new building, care must be taken to conserve the village/ small market town atmosphere of these settlements. Development to the extent that modifications to the infrastructure, which are detrimental to the ambience and character of the settlements, are needed should not be permitted. The wholesale expansion of Aylesbury will put pressure on local roads and services. Vernacular farm buildings are being converted to dwellings, often unsympathetically. There is already some noise pollution from over-flying aircraft. Another runway at Luton airport will make it much worse. The River Misbourne has been dry for the last 2 years, although it has started running again over the last 8 weeks. Climate change poses a threat to water supplies, the beechwoods and bluebells and to indigenous fauna in the longer term.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District | Q 14 | The Chilterns Conservation Board (CCB) oversees |



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| <p>Council conservation officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town/Parish Council • Area information centre | <p>Are there any local groups already working on environmental issues in your town?</p> | <p>environmental matters within the Chiltern Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The Board has a broad remit and the subjects within its area of interest are listed below.</p> <p>Chalk streams, woodlands, commons, traffic and transport, tourism, planning and development, local products, farming and land use, red kites, access to the countryside, special trees and woods project. The Board administers a grant scheme that is available to support projects which bring environmental, social and economic benefits to the Chilterns AONB.</p> <p>The Chilterns Society aims to “Keep the Chilterns Green” and has the following working groups.</p> <p>Planning: consultation with Councils on most planning matters. Rights of Way: oversees way marking, footpath clearance and stile repair. Historic Works and Building: monitors the protection of old buildings and monuments. Conservation Volunteers: river, pond and scrub clearance, hedge laying, bulb planting etc. in co-operation with the CCB and supported by the Countryside Agency the Chiltern Conservation Volunteer Co-ordination Scheme is being developed. Rivers and Wetlands: monitors the preservation of rivers, streams, ponds and canals. Photo Group: maintains a pictorial record.</p> <p>The Chilterns Society also has a Partnership with Schools Project and a group of advisors which studies the local situation with respect to farming, road and transport matters,</p> |
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minerals and gravel extraction and airports and aircraft noise.

The Woodland Trust owns/maintains Chalkdell Wood, Frith Hill and Pepperboxes Wood at Hampden Bottom.

Several farms in the area are members of **LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming)** which is a British farming and environmental charity working with farmers who care for the countryside to produce safe, affordable and healthy food.

The Forestry Commission has formed a Local Accord with the Chilterns Conservation Board which has the following shared priorities.

Securing an attractive and sustainable landscape.

Protection of existing woodlands.

Reversing the fragmentation of ancient and semi-natural woodlands.

Promoting appropriate management practices.

Gaining public confidence and support.

The Prestwood Society monitors the local situation with respect to planning, roads, footpaths, ponds and trees.

Prestwood Nature aims to protect and enhance the quality of the natural environment in the Prestwood area through the involvement of local residents. It is currently working with The Chiltern Woodland Project, The Forestry Commission and Chiltern District Council to improve the management of Angling Spring Wood.

The Chiltern Woodlands Project was started in 1989 by



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| | | <p>The Chilterns Society and is now an independent charity with the aim of promoting and encouraging the sensitive and sustainable management of Chiltern woods.</p> <p>The Special Trees and Woods Project is part of the Chiltern Woodlands Project and aims to identify and record special trees and woods in the Chiltern Natural Area.</p> <p>Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wild Life Trust has no reserves within the area but maintains an overall interest in the well being of the wildlife.</p> <p>The National Trust owns Pulpit Wood which, although outside the area, nudges at its north-western perimeter.</p> <p>The John Hampden Society encourages and assists, where possible, in the preservation and/or renovation of monuments and artefacts associated with John Hampden.</p> <p>The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers seeks to create and sustain environmental action within local communities by providing individuals with the necessary knowledge, skills and confidence. Activities are arranged across the Thames and Chilterns area.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local planning office • Estate Agents • Local council Offices | <p>Q15 Are you aware of any vacant land or buildings in or around your town which could help the town's initiatives?</p> | <p>No, because apart from PiP we haven't at present got any initiatives.</p> |



3: This part is called a SWOT analysis, where you identify Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats for your town. Once you have collected the information you feel is relevant, use this table to show the Strengths and Weaknesses in the environmental character and condition of your town and its surrounding area. Also flag up where there are Opportunities to improve things or where there might be Threats in the future. The conclusions give the basis for a summary that can go forward to the Healthcheck Report.

| You need to consider what the information you have gathered (as well as your own judgement) tells you in the light of these questions: | Write your answers here. Base them on the information you have gathered and on the thoughts/opinions of the whole group. | Conclusion | | | | | |
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| | | 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? | No – there are lots of opportunities to increase use and enjoyment of our natural environment, for residents and visitors. An example is to set up a footpaths group in conjunction with the Chiltern Society to monitor and improve local paths and publish a set of circular walks. | | | | | | |
| 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? | Great Missenden has great character but it is seriously undermined. The High Street is the main area for improvement to restore its historic character and regenerate trade. Prestwood has vitality – well-used village centre and lots going on. Ballinger is an active community centred on the village hall. South Heath suffers from having no active centre or meeting place. | | | | | | |



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| <p>Are there any major environmental concerns in and/or around your town that you are aware of? Are they being addressed? If not, what do you think should be done?</p> | <p>Yes, as outlined above</p> | | | | | | |
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WORKSHEET EN2: THE TOWN & THE WIDER COUNTRYSIDE

Task: to record the quality of the town's surrounding countryside, how it is changing and the links it has with the town

1: Introduction to the task

Market towns and their surrounding countryside are linked both visually and physically. Most of the practical links between the town and its surrounding countryside (hinterland) are based on the town's traditional role as marketplace, shopping centre and the source of necessary local services for those living in the area. It is important for market towns to appreciate the changes happening in the countryside and to be able to adjust their services and facilities to meet changing needs. During this task try to:

- Identify the important present and past features that link the residents of town and countryside residents (such as roads, employment links etc)
- Look at the accessibility of services also where appropriate. For example, do you know if there are any mobile services (such as medial services / libraries etc) which go out to surrounding areas? Is this important in your area?



2: Getting the following information will help you define the environmental links between the town and countryside

| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
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| Sub-section: Links between town and countryside | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maps or aerial photographs • Local survey • Local knowledge | <p>Q 1</p> <p>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? (Eg. do people walk from the town and follow a river route into the countryside?)</p> | <p>Too many to list in this detail. The river, railway and A413 run north-south through countryside at both ends of Great Missenden. All the main road link settlements and countryside. Children walk from various parts of the parish to the schools, although not as many as could because of the risks from heavy traffic.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local survey • Local knowledge | <p>Q 2</p> <p>Are there unique features in the surrounding countryside? Eg. Distinctive hills, rocks etc.</p> | <p>The whole area is distinctive; hence its AONB status.</p> |



| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local knowledge • Local History Group • Local Tourist Board • Library | <p>Q 3 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>None of the above; several local pubs and ex-pubs I Great Missenden have the wide entrance leading to a court yard which indicate that they catered for horse drawn traffic and riders, many of whom would have been locals from the surrounding countryside.</p> |



| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Council (ask for Local Plan) • County Council • English Nature • Local Wildlife Trust | <p>Q 4</p> <p>What areas (if any) 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>AONB – the whole parish</p> <p>Conservation Area – Great Missenden: as above</p> <p>SSSI – Angling Spring Wood</p> <p>Prestwood Local Nature Reserve</p> <p>Boug’s Meadow, Great Missenden</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Council • English Heritage • Area information office | <p>Q 5</p> <p>Do you have anything of historic importance (built or natural) in or around your town? (such as listed buildings, areas of archaeological interest)</p> | <p>50 listed buildings in Great Misenden; fifty more in the wider parish; 4 scheduled monuments.</p> <p>Numerous special trees being logged by the Chilterns Special Trees Project; several areas of woodland and lots of clumps of trees, which will also be logged.</p> |



| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
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| 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 6</p> <p>How much (approximately) agricultural land is located around your town?</p> | <p>Most soils in the parish are Grade 2; apart from a section from the village north along both sides of the river which is Grade 2*. Hence they are good enough to sustain farming in the parish.</p> <p>There is still a mix of arable and pastoral farming, but 'equiculture' has been a notable development in recent years and seems to be thriving. There appears to be an increase in equestrian activities generally in the parish. This seems to be welcome.</p> |



| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet (local community network) • Library • Local Wildlife Trust • British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) • Local information office | <p>Q 7</p> <p>Are there any groups that you know of that help to manage and conserve the countryside around your town?</p> | <p>Listed above</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business directory • Local knowledge | <p>Q 8</p> <p>Is there a horticulture or market gardening industry on the outskirts of the town which supplies the town markets?</p> | <p>Great Missenden is no longer a market town but one or two farms sell some local produce in a farm shop and offer a pick-your-own facility. However, the quantity that is supplied in this way is an insignificant amount of the total purchased in the area. A weekly farmers market in Prestwood attracts some produce from within and just outside the area but most is from further afield. The local dairy now purchases most of its milk from outside the area. There are several independent nurseries/garden centres where a proportion of the plants offered for sale are locally grown. Sometimes locally produced honey and eggs are also stocked.</p> |



3: This part is called a SWOT analysis, where you identify Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. Once you have the information, use this table to show the Strengths and Weaknesses in the links between town and countryside, the landscape character and features around the town. Also flag up where there are Opportunities to improve things or where there might be Threats in the future. The conclusions give the basis for a summary that can go forward to the Healthcheck Report.

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|---|---|-------------|----------|----------|-------------|--------|----------------|
| | | It's a Fact | Strength | Weakness | Opportunity | Threat | Need more info |
| 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 do you think this is? | The villages and countryside surrounding them continue to retain strong links with each other. The countryside in very many cases comes into the heart of our villages. There appear to be many vibrant businesses being run out of the countryside location these include traditional farming. There appears to be an increase in equestrian activities in areas surrounding the village. This seems to be welcome. One issue the countryside faces is the large number of barns which have been converted to residential accommodation in recent years. This appears to be with the approval of the planning system which is disappointing. | | | | | | |



| | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <p>Looking at the quality of the surrounding countryside, its sensitive areas and its potential, are any areas in need of support/strengthening?</p> | <p>The whole area needs support, through recognition of its national importance as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty on the part of the District and Parish Councils, other organisations and the residents and of their responsibility to conserve and enhance it.</p> | | | | | | |
| <p>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?</p> | <p>There is still a mix of arable and pastoral farming, but 'equiculture' has been a notable development in recent years and seems to be thriving. There appears to be an increase in equestrian activities generally in the parish. Across the Chilterns family farms are being sold up, the purchasers being large scale agricultural concerns or else people buying smaller pockets of land for enjoyment rather than commercial use. This has serious implications for conservation of the countryside, especially if people extend their gardens onto farmland (which requires planning permission as it constitutes change of use, which people don't realise) which then makes it brown field and hence gives it potential for development.</p> | | | | | | |
| <p>What potential is there to increase the extent of community involvement in the management and conservation of the countryside?</p> | <p>Management is a matter for the land owners. There is potential for community support and involvement in co-operation with them through measures such as farm walks to increase people's understanding of the role and importance of agriculture and the creation of outlets for local produce to provide farmers with alternative markets for their produce.</p> | | | | | | |



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.

1: Introduction to the task

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



2: Getting the following information will help you review how environmental quality could be enhanced to improve people's quality of life

| 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 | <p>Q 1</p> <p>What opportunities are there in your town for people to understand and become active in reducing or managing waste? Are there re-cycling facilities available for example? Are there any other local waste schemes you are aware of?</p> | <p>There are recycling points in Great Missenden and Prestwood but not South Heath and Ballinger</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Authority | <p>Q 2</p> <p>Are there any initiatives that you know of in your town to promote the reduction in energy /carbon use?</p> | <p>No, although the District Councils is working to promote the reduction of energy use. The Parish Council now has powers to promote the development and use of renewable energy and reduce usage. The expertise is available in the village so hopefully the PC and GMPRG can co-operate to work on this.</p> |



| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
|---|---|--|
| Sub-section: Quality of life through leisure and recreation | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Authority | <p>Q 3 Do community open spaces, sites and facilities currently available for informal recreation and amenity meet the needs of the local people? If not, how do you think they should be improved?</p> | <p>To an extent, though some sections of the population are better served than others. For example both the Buryfield and Prestwood Common are used at weekends by football clubs. This obviously affects the turf but more significantly the clubs are very protective of their interests – hence an attempt by the Prestwood Football Club 2 years ago to prevent organised activities for children during the summer and their negative response to the proposal of an activity wall and teen shelter there.</p> <p>Over the last two three years the Parish Council has been investing in play and recreation facilities for children. As well as the activity wall and teen shelter in Prestwood, new play equipment has been installed in Ballinger and South Heath and a substantial contribution made to Play in Prestwood.</p> <p>Installing activity/ training circuits for late teen and adults round the edge of the Buryfield and Prestwood Common has been suggested and could possibly be the next stage in the improvement of amenities.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Authority Local survey Tourist or Visitor Information Centre Local | <p>Q 4 Are the routes for walking and cycling in and around the town adequate in your opinion?</p> | <p>Not quite: the schools should be encouraged to get together and co-ordinate their travel plans, thereby drawing down money to create a proper footpath across the fields from Nags Head Lane to Great Missenden, a designated and marked cycle route down Nags Head Lane and along London Road; also a proper foot and cycle path from Prestwood through Angling Springs Wood to Trafford Road. These would create safe routes for children to walk/ ride to school and encourage them to do so.</p> |



| | | |
|-----------|--|---|
| knowledge | | Work to improve and maintain footpaths and promote their use is suggested above. A worthwhile project would be to try to negotiate a permissive path alongside the river to join up with the footpaths from Mobwell to the Link Road and Little Missenden to Shardeloes and Amersham. |
|-----------|--|---|



3: This part is called a SWOT analysis, where you identify Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. Once you have the information, use this table to show the Strengths and Weaknesses in the ways that contribute to a better environment for all. Also flag up where there are Opportunities to improve things or where there might be Threats in the future. The conclusions give the basis for a summary that can go forward to the Healthcheck Report.

| You need to consider what the information you have gathered (and your own judgement) tells you in the light of these questions: | Write your answers here. Base them on the information you have gathered and on the thoughts/opinions of the whole group. | Conclusion | | | | | |
|---|--|-------------|----------|----------|-------------|--------|----------------|
| | | It's a Fact | Strength | Weakness | Opportunity | Threat | Need more info |
| How much activity is there in and around your town to support, conserve and manage the environment? How do you think these activities could be extended and more people encouraged to get involved (if you feel necessary)? | A great deal through Prestwood Nature but there is always the potential for more, especially in relation to foot paths and cycle routes. The Parish Council and GMPRG should take a lead in establishing projects in partnership with existing groups. | | | | | | |



| | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <p>What improvements could be made to local amenities (such as open spaces, sites, routes and facilities for informal recreation)? Are there any potential open spaces or sites that you feel could be developed? Which ones and how/for what purpose?</p> | <p>There have been plans for a “transformational development” which would see Prestwood Common develop to become a hub for the local community. This development should be encouraged subject to the concerns of the Scouts, Youth Club, Football Clubs and other local residents being met. It should also not present any form of threat to the continuance of the allotments. For the longer term it appears that much work needs to be done to find meaningful activities for the youth of all of the villages covered by CV4HP16.</p> <p>Greater use by a wider section of the community should be encouraged, for example by planting trees to provide shaded areas on the Buryfield and Prestwood Common, setting up training circuits and encouraging events.</p> <p>Great Missenden High Street is in urgent need of regeneration to create a more vibrant local centre and contribute to the community’s economic and social well-being. In particular local people want ‘more useful shops’ and the local economy would benefit if there were more visitors, local and tourists, using High Street shops. The group suggests that steps be taken to encourage the establishment of a range of shops to fill the vacant premises and provide opportunities for recreational as well as practical shopping, such as:</p> <p>a 2nd hand/ remaindered books shop with a Chilterns focus; The Old Curiosity shop; Electrical shop/ IT repairs Patisserie/ chocolatier; Proper tea shop; Old fashioned sweet shop; Ask the fish van to visit Great Missenden as well as Prestwood.</p> <p>In particular a community-based effort should be made to establish a Local Produce shop. The potential range of locally produced goods is very wide, from local milk, cheeses, meat and vegetables to wood carvings, silk scarves and paintings. (It might even be possible to set up a collective using the Memorial Hall or Oldham Hall kitchens of eg young mums and retired people to bake cake etc.)</p> <p>A local information centre and Chilterns study Centre, open at weekends.</p> | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|

WORKSHEET EC1: EMPLOYMENT

Task: The task is to assess the strength of the local job market.

1: Introduction to the task

Employment in rural areas is extremely varied, but in very broad terms is characterised by higher rates of self-employment and home-working than in urban areas. There are generally lower levels of formally unemployed people and a high proportion of the labour force work in very small firms. Most employees work in four industries:

- Distribution, which includes retail, wholesale and public services sector
- Hotels and catering
- Manufacturing
- Business and financial services

An overview of rural employment and its sources of information can be found in the Countryside Agency's *'Annual State of the Countryside'* report and Rural Economies *'Stepping Stones to a Healthier Future'*. There is probably a regional version of these reports. Your regional development agency, Local Authority and Learning and Skills Council all produce profiles of employment, which may help you create your own employment profile for the town and hinterland.

The main sources of information that should help answer the questions are:

- Census of Population 2001 (which records employees and self employed at their places of residence)
- Annual Employment Survey and the unemployment data produced by the Office for National Statistics and Department for Work and Pensions
- Annual and Quarterly Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Business Inquiry's (ABI) Workplace Employer Survey
- Inter Departmental Business Register (IDBR) – this records forms for VAT and/or PAYE

Apart from using published data, you may find a survey of local employers useful.



2: Getting the following information will help you find out the basic facts needed to understand the local employment situation

| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
|---|---|--|
| | Sub-section 1: Employment | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Census of Population • Job centre • Local authority | <p>Q1 Can you find out what the average employed/unemployed ratio is in your town (and surrounding area)?</p> <p>What are your thoughts on how this compares with the national average?</p> <p>Are there any sections of the population (by age/gender) where unemployment is higher than the national average?</p> | No. Only district data available. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Census of Population 2001 • More recent local surveys | Q 2: What proportion of local people commute out of the town/hinterland to work and how far do they go? | No data available but the local villages are predominantly commuter settlements. |



| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|-------|--------------------------|-------|---------------|-------|----------------------|------|-----------|------|-------|------|------------------------------------|------|--------------|------|--------------------------|------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Earnings Survey, published by the Office for National Statistics Surveys by the Local Authority. | <p>Q 3 What can you find out about average household incomes in and around your town? How do these compare to the national average?</p> | <p>No data available. Average house prices are over £400,000 in Great Missenden which compares to a national average of £205,000 so incomes will reflect this.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Census of Population Annual Employment Survey Local knowledge | <p>Q 4 What are the main sources of employment in and around your town?</p> | <table> <tbody> <tr> <td>Real estate; renting & business activities</td> <td>23.4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wholesale & retail trade</td> <td>15.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Manufacturing</td> <td>12.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Health & social work</td> <td>9.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Education</td> <td>7.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>5.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transport, storage & communication</td> <td>5.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Construction</td> <td>5.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Financial intermediation</td> <td>4.5%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Real estate; renting & business activities | 23.4% | Wholesale & retail trade | 15.7% | Manufacturing | 12.2% | Health & social work | 9.6% | Education | 7.9% | Other | 5.8% | Transport, storage & communication | 5.8% | Construction | 5.6% | Financial intermediation | 4.5% |
| Real estate; renting & business activities | 23.4% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wholesale & retail trade | 15.7% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Manufacturing | 12.2% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Health & social work | 9.6% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Education | 7.9% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Other | 5.8% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Transport, storage & communication | 5.8% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Construction | 5.6% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Financial intermediation | 4.5% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local survey of businesses Labour Force Survey | <p>Q 5 Who are the big employers in and around your town? Can you find out how many people they employ?</p> | <p>Allied Healthcare – approx 250 employees Chiltern Hospital – approx 350 employees Misbourne School – approx 100 employees Missenden Abbey – approx 50 employees SPS – approx 55 employees</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |



| | Sub-section 3: Employment outlook | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|------|---|------|----|------|----|------|---|------|----|
| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes | | | | | | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local knowledge Customs and Excise VAT Registration. The local Business Link Operator | <p>Q 6 What can you find out about any new business start ups in your town and surrounding area? Which have been successful?</p> | <p>Bucks Enterprise, the local Enterprise Agency, has seen the following numbers of potential start-ups in HP16 in recent years:</p> <table> <tr><td>2002</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>2003</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>2004</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>2005</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>2006</td><td>17</td></tr> </table> <p>This reflects a low awareness of their service in Chiltern District, possibly stemming from CDC not funding the service. VAT registrations are only available at District level.</p> | 2002 | 3 | 2003 | 11 | 2004 | 11 | 2005 | 8 | 2006 | 17 |
| 2002 | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2003 | 11 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2004 | 11 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2005 | 8 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2006 | 17 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> local Business Link Operator District Council economic development department Regional Development Agency (SEEDA). | <p>Q 7 Are you aware of any business development grants that are available in your town/area? Please give any details.</p> | <p>No. Other districts offer limited financial support e.g. Aylesbury Vale.</p> | | | | | | | | | | |

3: This part is called a SWOT analysis, where you identify Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. Once you have the information, use this table to show the Strengths and Weaknesses in the local jobs market. Also flag up where there are Opportunities to improve things or where there might be Threats in the future. The conclusions give the basis for a summary that can go forward to the Healthcheck Report.

| You need to consider what the information you have gathered (as well as your own judgement) tells you in the light of these questions: | Write your answers here. Base them on the information you have gathered and on the thoughts/opinions of the whole group. | Conclusion | | | | | |
|--|--|-------------|----------|---------|-----------|--------|------|
| | | It's a Fact | Strength | Weaknes | Opportuni | Threat | Need |
| Is unemployment a significant issue locally? | No | | | | | | |
| Is there much business activity (start ups etc) in and around your town? | No | | | | | | |
| Is the town a dormitory town or has it a significant employment role? | Predominantly dormitory | | | | | | |



| | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Is local employment particularly dependent on specific industry sectors and /or on a small number of large employers? | Service sector and self-employed people. | | | | | | |
| Is the number of jobs available locally increasing or decreasing? | Unknown | | | | | | |
| How strong is the local economy would you say based on all evidence of employment and business start ups vs closures? | Static (anecdotal evidence). | | | | | | |

WORKSHEET EC2: BUSINESS SUPPORT

Task: to find out what business support services and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) are used by local businesses and to see whether they are sufficient or if they could be improved.

1: Introduction to the task

All businesses need advice, information, funds or other support at some stage. Many very small rural businesses prefer to secure some help from their banks, accountants, families and trade associates, rather than through public business support organisations. However, some businesses need help with compliance with regulations and should seek it from local or national regulators and the Environmental Health Office or the Health and Safety Executive.

To help you draw conclusions about how the support available to businesses could develop you may need to

- *Look at findings from monitoring of public sector funding initiatives*
- *Evaluate the number of enquiries to Business Support Agencies in relation to the total number of businesses*
- *Identify how easily information on business support services can be obtained*

Organisations, which may hold useful information, include:

- the economic development department of the Local Authority
- the regional development agency
- the town centre manager or forum
- the business volunteer mentoring association
- the Business Link Operator
- the Chamber of Trade and Commerce
- the local business associations

2 Getting the following information will help you decide how support for business - or access to that support - needs to be improved.

| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
|---|--|---|
| Sub Section: Support available to businesses | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Business Directory • Yellow pages • Local knowledge | <p>Q 1 What services are there in and around your town which small businesses could access support (financial or advice) through?</p> <p>Think about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank branches • Small Business Service • Business Link • Chambers of Trade or Commerce • Learning and Skills Council • Enterprise Agency • Local food network/partnership or farm advisory service | <p>Banks (Missenden only) HSBC – no business manager Lloyds TSB – no business manager Barclays – no business manager BLS – via Thame office, Mark Broerse 07765 404219 Chesham Chamber 772327 (Missenden Chamber defunct) Amersham First Thames Valley Chamber Bucks Enterprise (Aylesbury or Wycombe meeting only) – start-up contract for BLS</p> |



| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register of Business Enquiries • District Council Business Surveys • Calls to support services | Q 2 If possible, can you find out how well these services are used – eg. How many local people do business link see? How many business enquiries does the local bank receive? | BLS / BE Chesham Chamber – 0 members from HP16 and 0 exhibited at Business 4 Business event. TVCCI – 6 HP16 members out of 2000+ Amersham First BLS has 447 businesses registered in the HP16 postcode area. BE saw 50 potential start-up clients in HP16 between 2002-6. |
| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Council • Local knowledge | Q 3 What local organisations exist in your town which may represent economic interests? (eg. Town forum / Chamber of commerce) | None |



| Sub section: Business networking | | |
|--|--|--|
| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Link Operator • Chamber of Commerce • Local knowledge | Q 4 Are there any regular events in/around your town which bring the business community together; for example, breakfast clubs, trade fairs, local websites? | Business Link event at the Abbey Networking events in Chesham Chiltern Business Club |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local knowledge • Yellow Pages • Chamber of Commerce • Local businesses | Q 5 Are there any business meeting / conference facilities available in/around your town? | Missenden Abbey |
| | | |

Sub section: IT and e-business

| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chamber of Commerce • Business Link Operator • Local surveys • Local knowledge | Q 6 Are you aware of any training and support to help small businesses with IT? | In-Business Training working out of Wing House in Aylesbury operates a funded project called Strengthening Industry Links that offers subsidised IT training |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.bt.com/broadband • www.adslguid.e.org.uk • District Council • Local knowledge | Q 7 Do you know what the availability of broadband is in and around your town? Are there certain areas that you know of which do not have access to it? | Available. |



| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
|---|---|-------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local information centres• Local knowledge | Q 8 Are there any public IT facilities in/around your town (ie where people can log onto the internet etc)? | Library, Baptist Church |

3: This part is called a SWOT analysis, where you identify Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. Once you have the information, use this table to show the Strengths and Weaknesses in the provision and use of business support services. Also flag up where there are Opportunities to improve things or where there might be Threats in the future. The conclusions give the basis for a summary that can go forward to the Healthcheck Report.

| You need to consider what the information you have gathered tells you (as well as your own judgement) in the light of these questions: | Write your answers here. Base them on the information you have gathered and on the thoughts/opinions of the whole group. | Conclusion | | | | | |
|--|--|-------------|----------|----------|-------------|--------|----------------|
| | | It's a Fact | Strength | Weakness | Opportunity | Threat | Need more info |
| Do you think that the support offered to local businesses is adequate in your town? | No | | | | | | |
| Are there any opportunities to expand support for local businesses? | Possibly – networking event may give more information – but government-funded business support is being streamlined. | | | | | | |
| Do you consider that there is a need to create, develop and or fund business events? | Yes | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <p>Are there are enough business meeting and conference venues locally?</p> | <p>Yes</p> | | | | | | |
| <p>To what extent is broadband available in and around your town?</p> | <p>Available</p> | | | | | | |

WORKSHEET EC3: TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Task: to assess the quality of training and education available, and identify where there are gaps and opportunities for development.

1: Introduction to the task

It will be valuable to identify the educational profile of your area's workforce and residents. This profile is usually taken as an indicator of the skill base of the workforce, and is generally measured in terms of NVQ levels. For example, a low proportion of the economically active population holding triple level NVQs may show low potential, poor participation and little applicable knowledge: this would present a greater challenge to raising productivity, outputs and wages.

Sources that might hold useful information include:

- Labour Market Trends (Statistical information about employment and unemployment, from National Statistics Online)
- Labour Force Survey (3-monthly survey of households providing information on employment and unemployment, from National Statistics Online)
- Household Surveys (Survey of households looking at training and employment issues, from National Statistics Online)
- Employer Surveys (Survey of employers looking at skills issue, from the Learning and Skills Council; latest version is 2003)
- Regional Intelligence Unit
- Regional Economic Assessments (Carried out on behalf of the Regional Development Agency, assessing skills and employment issues in the region)

You might also want to carry out a survey of local employers to help you identify vocational and work based training needs.



2: Getting the following information will help you draw conclusions about the quality and suitability of the learning and training opportunities available.

| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
|---|--|-------------------|
| Sub-section 1: Pre-school to College Years | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Education Authority | Q1 How many pre-school places in nurseries and playgroups are there in and around your town? Is this adequate to meet local needs? | N/A |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Education Authority | Q 2 Are there good quality secondary schools in the area? | Yes |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local schools and colleges Local Education Authority | Q 3 can you find out the average level of qualifications for school leavers from these schools? | N/A |

| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chamber of Commerce • Business Link Operator • Local survey • Job centre • | <p>Q4 Does the area attract and retain enough graduates?</p> <p>If no, are there any policies in place/being planned to address this problem that you know of?</p> | N/A |
| Sub-section: Vocational & Adult Learning Opportunities | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning and Skills Council • Local schools and colleges • Chamber of Commerce • Job centre • Business link • Local knowledge | <p>Q 5 Do you know of any local organisations / businesses who provide vocational work based training in your town/area?</p> | Via Missenden Abbey and Bucks Adult Learning |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult education centres • Surveys of local residents, employees. | <p>Q 6 Are there any non-vocational courses provided locally? Is there a wide range available?</p> | Via Missenden Abbey and Bucks Adult Learning. Yes. |

3: This part is called a SWOT analysis, where you identify Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. Once you have the information, use this table to show the Strengths and Weaknesses in the education and training profile and standards achieved locally. Also flag up where there are Opportunities to improve things or where there might be Threats in the future. The conclusions give the basis for a summary that can go forward to the Healthcheck Report.

| You need to consider what the information you have gathered (as well as your own judgement) tells you in the light of these questions: | Write your answers here. Base them on the information you have gathered and on the thoughts/opinions of the whole group. | Conclusion | | | | | |
|--|--|-------------|----------|---------|-----------|--------|------|
| | | It's a Fact | Strength | Weaknes | Opportuni | Threat | Need |
| Are there are sufficient pre-school places in nurseries and playgroups? | N/A | | | | | | |
| Is there is a problem in local schools with academic achievements or exclusions? | No | | | | | | |
| Are there significant vocational or non-vocational training gaps, which could be filled locally? | Unknown | | | | | | |

WORKSHEET EC4: LEARNING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Task: To explore local skills and learning issues and assess how a learning culture could be developed to foster economic performance and individuals' development.

1: Introduction to the task

The strength of the labour force can be a key driver of economic competitiveness. Well developed entrepreneurial and management skills feed the growth of small businesses and a more highly skilled labour force is essential for increasing productivity and moving to a higher wage and value-added economy. This means that the skills of the local workforce are crucial in attracting employment and supporting entrepreneurs. It is also important to know what employers' specific skills and training needs are, and what their recruitment and staff development experiences are.

Market towns may have a key role in delivering training and skills development opportunities. As a minimum, towns have an information and support role in assisting local businesses and individuals (including those from the rural hinterland). The larger market towns and those that play a key service-centre role for a large rural hinterland could look to providing more comprehensive facilities and services. This is a role that is particularly applicable in delivering generic business skills.

Adult Education and volunteering are recognised pathways back to work for a significant number of people. However, often the adult education provision in market towns is not as broad as in urban areas and voluntary sector training services are also weaker. There may be potential in larger market towns to broaden the adult education curriculum and integrate it more closely with other learning opportunities. Voluntary sector training could be encouraged and provided locally so that skills that are relevant both to voluntary organisations and to the workplace are developed.

The last part of the analysis involves finding out:

- what training and learning is available
- who decides what is provided and how to influence these providers
- what opportunities there are to meet identified need

2: Getting the following information will help you examine key trends in the local economy and identify opportunities to support local people in acquiring the right skills and participating in lifelong learning.

| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
|---|---|---|
| Sub-section 1: Overall Economic Performance | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local knowledge • Job centre • Local Chamber • District / Parish Council | <p>Q 1 To what extent has the town centre become a less significant location for retail and service sector development?</p> <p>What effect has this had on employment in the retail sector?</p> <p><i>Assess to what extent it is maintaining and attracting branches of major chains, and maintaining or attracting independent shops.</i></p> | <p>Retail in GM is declining, Prestwood stable, villages minimal. Service sector is main employer. Small retail units mainly independent; major chains are banks, estate agents, travel agents, Somerfield, etc</p> |



| Sub-section 2: Generic Skills Gaps | | |
|---|---|------------------------------------|
| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult education centres • Local schools • Job centres | Q 2 Are there any prominent issues that you are aware of around the attainment of basic literacy and numeracy skills of people in and around your town? | N/A |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job centres • Business Link • Local knowledge | Q 3 Are there any particular skills that businesses in your area require? Are they being met? | Unknown |
| Sub-section 3: Employers' Needs | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult education centres • Job centres | Q 4 How good (in terms of range, timing etc) are existing training services (including educational services) in and around your town? | OK |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local business directory | Q 5 Which employers provide local training or have their own training facilities for which there might be scope for sharing? | Unknown other than Missenden Abbey |

| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
|---|--|-------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job centres • Local business forums | Q 6 Are you aware of any recruitment and staff retention issues within businesses in your town that could be addressed through local training provision? | Unknown |
| Sub-section 4: Peoples' Needs | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult education centres • Job centres • Local knowledge | Q 7 In your opinion, is there adequate local provision for all the types and levels of learning that are needed? | N/A |



| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local knowledge • Job centres • Schools and adult education centres • District Council survey | <p>Q 8 To what extent do people have to travel elsewhere to match their skills and aspirations with appropriate training and employment?</p> | <p>Most people travel to work but above average self-employed numbers (15%).</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local knowledge • Job centres • Schools and adult education centres • District Council survey | <p>Q 9 How important is the voluntary sector in the town as a pathway to skills development?</p> | <p>It isn't.</p> |

| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
|--|--|-------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bucks County council Early Years & Childcare Development | Q 10 Are you aware of whether childcare in and around your town is adequate to meet the needs of those attending courses / employment? | Not aware |

| Sub-section 5: Provision & Mechanics | | |
|--|--|--|
| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business Link District / Parish council Job Centres Libraries | Q 11 Training provision: Who provides training within the town? Where does the training take place? When does the training take place? | Via Missenden Abbey and Bucks Adult Learning |



3: This part is called a SWOT analysis, where you identify Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. Once you have the information, use the tickboxes in this table to show the Strengths and Weaknesses in provision of and access to local training and skills development. Also flag up where there are Opportunities to improve things or where there might be Threats in the future. The conclusions give the basis for a summary that can go forward to the Healthcheck Report.

You may need to tick more than one column for each question.

| You need to consider what the information you have gathered (as well as your own judgement) tells you in the light of these questions: | Write your answers here. Base them on the information you have gathered and on the thoughts/opinions of the whole group. | Conclusion | | | | | |
|--|--|----------------|----------|--------------|-----------------|--------|--------------|
| | | It's a Fact | Strength | Weakne ss | Opportu nity | Threat | Need more |
| Are industries in the town in the growth sectors of the regional economy? Are the skills needs of these sectors being met? | Service sectors. Skills question unknown. | | | | | | |
| How does the health of the local economy compare with other towns and the regional economy as a whole? | Unknown | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Is there any significant cluster of businesses in the town (for example, tourism, specialist retailing, and engineering) and why is the town attracting these businesses? | Services | | | | | | |
| What significant skills shortages or recruitment problems are existing businesses experiencing? | Unknown | | | | | | |
| Can you identify skills that that local employers most value and most need to help their business? | No | | | | | | |
| Can local people access training locally that will improve general skills levels in the community and work to the benefit of local businesses and the local economy? | Yes with limits | | | | | | |
| What delivery agencies, trainers, and infrastructure bodies are active in the town? What facilities are available in the town that could provide a venue for local delivery of information, skills training, etc? | BCUC (Abbey), Adult Learning | | | | | | |



WORKSHEET EC5: RETAIL AND TOWN CENTRE SERVICES

Task: to discover the key facts about the retail and town centre services available and consider how well they meet people's needs

1: Introduction to the task

The economic and social health of the majority of Market Towns most often shows in the health and vibrancy of its high street and other retail and consumer services. Retail is the largest single employing sector in rural areas.



2: Getting the following information will help you assess what range of shops and services are available locally and give some idea of possible future trends.

| <i>Starting points for information</i> | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
|---|--|--|
| Sub-section: Retail shops and services | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chamber of Trade or Commerce • Local knowledge • The district council (if they have undertaken a retail study) • Town centre surveys or your own local surveys | <p>Q 1 Look at the businesses in the town</p> <p>a. What proportion are retail, and how many people do they employ?</p> <p>b. What proportion provide consumer services, and how many people do they employ?</p> | <p>41 of the 447 (10%) businesses on the Business Link database are classified as retail. Other details unavailable.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chamber of Trade or Commerce • The district council (if they have undertaken a retail study) • GOAD • Experian town | <p>Q 2 How many shops in total are there?</p> | <p>See above</p> |



| | | |
|---|---|---|
| centre surveys or your own local surveys | | |
| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chamber of Trade or Commerce • The district council (if they have undertaken a retail study) • Town centre surveys or your own local surveys • Local knowledge | <p>Q 3 What type of shops and services are there in the town centre and surrounding villages?</p> <p>Eg consider: <i>banks, chemists/pharmacies; butchers; charities, antique shops; clothes stores; shoe shops; bakers; grocers; supermarkets; hardware stores; general stores; solicitors; accountants; garages; pubs; cafés; dentists; doctors/medical/care - and so on; add to the list as appropriate.,</i></p> <p>a. Identify any particular shops and services that attract visitors and shoppers from outside the town. Include any shops and services which have branches in other areas or towns.</p> | <p>Clothing, florist, pubs, estate agents, jewellers, ironmonger, insurance, doctors, optician, deli, design consultants, framers, photographic, bookshops, bakery, accountants, health, recruitment, newsagents, post office, garage doors, dentists, chemists, travel agency, hot air balloon, restaurants, vet, café, off licence, garden centre, haberdasher, butchers, show shop, museum, care homes, sports clubs.</p> <p>Museum, jeweller, restaurants attract visitors. Banks, barber shop etc have branches elsewhere.</p> |
| | Q 4 How many charity shops are there? (Charity shops pay lower rates and rentals.) | 1? |



| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Council: look at their Retail Capacity Studies and Retail Impact Assessments of specific developments • Local knowledge | Q 5 Has retail floorspace in the town centre been lost in the last five years? If so, by how much? (approximately how many shops – use local knowledge) | 2800 sq ft. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property Intelligence plc • From local property agents | Q 6 Are you aware of any future retail developments in and around your town? | There are rumours regarding a Tesco development. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local knowledge • District Council • your own local surveys | Q 7. How many shops are vacant in the town centre and how many have been vacant for more than two years? | 3 vacant, 1 over 2 years (next to shoe shop in GM) |



| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GOAD Experian town centre surveys • District Council's Retail Capacity Study • Local knowledge | <p>Q 8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many new shops in the centre have opened in the last (say) three years? • How many shops have had major refits in the last (say) three years? | <p>1 opened and then closed 1 new owner Refits limited to change of use (Jewellers Bench)</p> |
| Sub Section: Markets | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Federation of Market Traders • National Farmers' Retail and Markets Association (FARMA) • British Association of Market Authorities | <p>Q 9 Does your town have a market? How often? What kind of produce is sold? How many stalls sells locally produced goods?</p> | <p>In Prestwood; Fridays mainly foodstuffs, some local.</p> |



| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The National Farmers Union,• District /Parish Council• The Market owners and operators.• Local Chamber | Q 10 Are there any threats to the local market? | Large retailers but they are already in place. New developments in Wycombe and Aylesbury. |



| Sub-Section: Looking to the future | | |
|--|---|--|
| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any survey of local shops and services Local knowledge | Q 11 What do you feel about the future of the town's role as a shopping location? Do you think this view is shared by local retailers? | Little growth; village not supported by locals. High Wycombe may draw more shoppers with new development. Retailers have a jaundiced view. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Valuation Office The District Council Through local property agents | Q 12 Are rents for retail premises stable or increasing? | Decreasing. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Tourist Information Offices for your town and nearby/other county towns Local/nearby hotels The Internet | Q 13 Does the local tourism/information office provide a good range of publicity? In how much of this does your town feature? What about surrounding areas? | Tourist information is in Wendover. Information points include local visitor guides but replenishment has been a real issue. |



3: This part is called a SWOT analysis, where you identify Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. Once you have the information, use this table to show the Strengths and Weaknesses in the number and type of shops and services. Also flag up where there are Opportunities to improve things or where there might be Threats in the future. The conclusions give the basis for a summary that can go forward to the Healthcheck Report.

You may need to tick more than one column for each question.

| You need to consider what the information you have gathered (as well as your own judgement) tells you in the light of these questions: | Write your answers here. Base them on the information you have gathered and on the thoughts/opinions of the whole group. | Conclusion | | | | | |
|--|--|-------------|----------|---------|-----------|--------|----------------|
| | | It's a Fact | Strength | Weaknes | Opportuni | Threat | Need more info |
| How much of the local shopping provision is in the town centre, out-of-town centre or in the villages? | Mainly out of town | | | | | | |
| Are there any obvious gaps or shortages in provision of different types of shops and services? | Perceptions vary | | | | | | |
| Has the town centre has become a more or less attractive location for retail development? | Less | | | | | | |
| Is there is commercial demand for additional retail floorspace? | No | | | | | | |



WORKSHEET EC6: COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY NEEDS

Task: to identify whether there are likely to be enough commercial and industrial properties for existing and new businesses

1: Introduction to the task

It is important to keep in mind that the typical profile of rural self employed is for one third to work from home and one third to be mobile.



2: Getting the following information will provide some key facts about the commercial property market in the local area

| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
|---|---|--|
| Sub-section 1: Supply of property | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> District Council Local property agents | Q1 How much land for development has been allocated in the Local Development Plan ? | Under review at present. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> District Council Local property agent | Q 2 Floorspace: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> What is the total amount of commercial and industrial floorspace available? Where is it? How much of it has been built or let in the last three years? | Unknown. Described by agents as a small market with small amounts available. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> District Council Local property agent | Q 3 How many premises suitable for new small businesses are there at affordable rents? | None at present. |



| | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• District Council• Local property agent | <p>Q 4 How many premises are there that allow for 'expansions' or 'grow on' by existing local firms?</p> <p>Generally, you will find shortages are more often in the space for expansion rather than for start up premises</p> | <p>None. No growth is apparent.</p> |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|



| Sub-section 2: Demand for properties | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------|
| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Council • Local property agents | Q 5 What have been the trends in vacancy levels in industrial and commercial property? | Little change. No speculation. |

| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
|--|---|------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Council • Small Business Service • Regional Development Agency • Business Link | Q 9 Are there any economic development and/or funding initiatives in place to assist the expansion of local firms and incoming firms? | National schemes only. |



3: This part is called a SWOT analysis, where you identify Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. Once you have the information, use this table to show the Strengths and Weaknesses in the local commercial property market. Also flag up where there are Opportunities to improve things or where there might be Threats in the future. The conclusions give the basis for a summary that can go forward to the Healthcheck Report.

You may need to tick more than one column for each question.

| You need to consider what the information you have gathered (as well as your own judgement) tells you in the light of these questions: | Write your answers here. Base them on the information you have gathered and on the thoughts/opinions of the whole group. | Conclusion | | | | | |
|--|--|-------------|----------|----------|-------------|--------|-----------|
| | | It's a Fact | Strength | Weakness | Opportunity | Threat | Need more |
| How have vacancy levels for commercial properties changed in the last three years? | No | | | | | | |
| Are existing commercial and industrial firms planning to expand? | Unknown | | | | | | |
| Are there sufficient premises at affordable rents for new small businesses, and for businesses that want to expand? | No | | | | | | |



| | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| What is the overall demand for, and gaps in the provision of, different types of commercial and industrial property. Take into consideration size and age of available property. | Small market | | | | | | |
|--|--------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|

WORKSHEET EC7: TOURISM AND VISITOR SERVICES

Task: to measure the level of tourism activity in the area and make assessments of visitor services and facilities.

1: Introduction to the task

Although tourism is part of the local economy you may find that it is difficult to get hold of reliable information about tourism issues. If there is not enough published information available to answer the questions, you may want to carry out an audit of tourist and visitor activities. Your audit will probably need to include a wide range of topics including:

- Visitor attitudes: what do they come for, what do they do, and what do they think about what the town/hinterland have to offer?
- Community Attitudes: how does tourism impact on the local economy both economically and socially, and what are the benefits and the problems?)
- Economic impact assessment: how does tourism and tourism related employment affect the area?

The regional development agency or local authority tourism officer may be able to help with collecting and analysing the data.

NB The provision of sports and leisure facilities is covered in Worksheet S5: Sport, Leisure and Open space.



2: Getting the following information will give you the facts you need to assess visitors' needs and the services and facilities available.

| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| Sub Section 1: Who are our visitors? | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Tourist Information office Visitor surveys District Council | Q 1 How many visitors come to your town and surrounding areas each year? Consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Day visitors Overnight visitors Longer stay visitors | Museum 40000+ Missenden Abbey ? |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visitor Surveys conducted by the District Council or Tourist Board | Q 2 Visitor activity: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Is visitor activity susceptible to seasonal peaks and troughs? If yes, when do these occur, and why? | Yes, for the Museum – winter months. |
| Sub Section 2: What do tourists want? | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Tourist Information office Visitor surveys | Q 3 Where do visitors go during their visit? | Museum, Abbey, walking. |



| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
|--|---|-------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Tourist Information office Visitor surveys | <p>Q4 What do visitors do during their visit? <i>Look at, for example, whether they go shopping, visit tourist attractions, do sport, visit friends/relatives, etc.</i></p> | As above. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visitor Surveys conducted by the District Council or Tourist Board | <p>Q 5 can you find out how much money visitors spend in the town and the surrounding area?</p> | No |
| Sub-section 3: What does our town offer tourists? | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Tourist Board Yellow Pages | <p>Q 6 Activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> What are the main tourist or visitor activities in the town or nearby? Are there any specialist tourism enterprises, such as language schools or conference centres that may encourage people to visit the area? If so, what proportion of visitors use these facilities? <p><i>Consider both major activities (for example, festivals, sports events, key landmarks, etc), and smaller scale activities (for example, footpaths, cycle ways)</i></p> | As above. |



| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
|---|---|-------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local authority • Local transport providers • Local knowledge | <p>Q 7 What are the transport links:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. To the town in the first instance (for example, road and rail) b. For visitors once they have arrived (for example, buses, hire cars)? <p><i>Consider whether there are viable alternatives to private cars.</i></p> | See transport. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Tourist Information Office • www.tourismforall.org.uk • www.holidaycare.org.uk • Local knowledge | <p>Q 8 How accessible would you consider your town to be for people with disabilities? (Rate generally with any facts / stats you may have)</p> | Not good. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Council • Local Tourist Board • Local knowledge | <p>Q 9 What is the range and capacity of accommodation available in and around your town? (consider B&Bs, Guest Houses, Hotels, Self-catering, Caravan and camping, Youth hostels)</p> | Limited |



| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Council • Local Tourist Board | <p>Q 10</p> <p>Competitions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Does the town enter any national competitions, such as 'Britain in Bloom'? b. Do the surrounding villages enter the 'Best Kept Village'? | <p>No. Some Chiltern villages and towns do.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local food groups • District / Parish Council • Tourist Information Office | <p>Q 12</p> <p>Food directory:</p> <p>Is there a local food directory for the town and surrounding hinterland?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. How is it produced? b. Who is it distributed to? c. How often is it updated? | <p>No, only Bucks Food Group via BCC</p> |



| Sub-section 4: Do we need to improve what we offer? | | |
|---|---|--|
| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourist Information • Visitor Centre • Local knowledge • Visitor surveys • Tourist Board • Tourism officer | <p>Q 13</p> <p>Visitor information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> If there is a Tourist or Visitor Information Centre in the town, how well used is it? Is there a local / town website? Around the town and its environs, are there: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> current visitor guides town trails up to date walking and cycling trails | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> No No single website Yes, via GMPC |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor surveys • Tourist Board • District Council Tourism Officer • Local survey | <p>Q 14</p> <p>Is there adequate and effective pedestrian and road signing to visitors' attractions and services (for example, parking and public toilets, the Tourist Office and the town centre)?</p> <p><i>Look at signage to/from tourist attractions from key points such as at car parks, the train station, and between attractions.</i></p> | Yes (a forest of signs in GM) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local survey | <p>Q 15</p> <p>How convenient is public transport for shopping areas/facilities and tourist attractions?</p> | Not particularly convenient (buses to Wycombe and Amersham but little to elsewhere) |



| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local knowledge | <p>Q 16 Parking:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> How many car parks, coach parks, meters, free parking zones, etc, are there? Are they situated conveniently for the Town Centre, shopping and tourist attractions? | <p>Link Road and Prestwood High Street plus Chiltern Rail and certain shops (Chequers parade, Somerfield, etc.)</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visitor surveys Tourist Board District Council, Tourism Officer | <p>Q 17 To what extent does the number, range and quality of visitor services and ancillary services match visitor expectation and needs?</p> | <p>Unknown</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local knowledge / surveys Local tourism / information office Library | <p>Q 18 What do visitors think about the general appearance and attractiveness of the town/hinterland, and the public facilities?</p> <p><i>Look at:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The number of and standard of public facilities (for example, public toilets; seating (in covered and uncovered areas); accessibility for older people and the less able; litter bins. Add to this list as appropriate.</i> | <p>Unknown.</p> |



- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>The general appearance: for example, are the streets clean and tidy? Is graffiti a problem? Are there well-tended flower beds and borders, etc? Are the railway station/bus terminals in good repair? Add to this list as appropriate.</i> | |
|--|---|--|



3: This part is called a SWOT analysis, where you identify Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. Once you have the information, use this table to show the Strengths and Weaknesses in the visitor and tourism services currently on offer. Also flag up where there are Opportunities to improve things or where there might be Threats in the future. The conclusions give the basis for a summary that can go forward to the Healthcheck Report.

You may need to tick more than one column for each question.

| You need to consider what the information you have gathered (as well as your own judgement) tells you in the light of these questions: | Write your answers here. Base them on the information you have gathered and on the thoughts/opinions of the whole group. | Conclusion | | | | | |
|--|--|----------------|----------|--------------|-----------------|--------|--------------|
| | | It's a Fact | Strength | Weakne ss | Opportu nity | Threat | Need more |
| How important is tourism to the local economy? | Museum and walking are main tourism draw. Local economy not based on tourism per se. | | | | | | |
| How vulnerable is the local economy (including the local labour force) to seasonal variations in tourism? | Museum is vulnerable | | | | | | |
| Are there adequate tourism related services in and around the town (accommodation / facilities etc) | No (plans for motel suggest so) | | | | | | |



| | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Is visitor activity concentrated mainly within the town itself or within the hinterland? | Town for museum, hinterland for countryside | | | | | | |
| How good are the transport links into the town and to tourist attractions? | Train OK, buses poor | | | | | | |
| What Tourism information sources there are in the area, and how well used are they? | None | | | | | | |
| Do the town and its hinterland have adequate parking facilities for both residents and visitors? | No | | | | | | |

WORKSHEET S2: HOUSING

Task: to find out the basic information needed to assess the housing situation in the town and surrounding countryside

1: Introduction to the task

- There is very little a Healthcheck group can do to address the housing needs in your town but a general feel of the situation will be important in the overall assessment of your town's 'health'.
- If you wish to gather additional information, your District Council may be able to help.
- Cross reference this to Worksheet S1: Population

2: Getting the following information will help you assess the housing situation in your town and surrounding countryside.

| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
|---|--|---|
| <i>Sub-section 1: Housing Availability and Need</i> | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local estate agents (for general information on housing market) • District Council & Local Housing Associations • Local knowledge | <p>Q1 What is the general pattern of housing in your town and surrounding areas? (eg mostly owner occupied / Council stock / houses / flats etc)</p> | <p>Approx 36,100 (in 2004) households in Chiltern District, 80% of them owner-occupied with some rentals also available from private landlords, housing associations and Registered Social Landlords (RSL's).</p> <p>4,092 dwellings in Gt Missenden Parish (April 01), of which 399 households rent from CDC or Housing Ass'n / RSLs.</p> <p>Chiltern District Council (CDC) population 89,228 (2001) with 1/3rd living in main towns of Chesham & Amersham. 3,978 occupied households + 114 vacant households in Gt Missenden parish (April 01 Nat Stats) (9,946 people in Gt Miss parish).</p> <p>In postal code HP16 good residential mix from flats, 2 b/r terraces, small character cottages through to large detached homes, ranging from period to new build available to purchase in private sector. Almost none leasehold, except flats. As at 12/9/06 84 properties for sale in HP16, mostly freehold.</p> <p>Smaller flats tend to be nearer village centres; period properties in village conservation areas; new build on</p> |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | <p>infill sites & post-war on periphery of villages. Properties generally spread through all local villages with others isolated on ribbon-link roads/narrow country lanes.</p> <p><i>Paradigm Housing Group (CDC) - Social Housing in HP16</i> 110 x 1 bed dwellings 210 x 2 bed “ 121 x 3 bed = Total of 441</p> <p><i>Sheltered Housing</i> 51 x 1 bed dwellings (see Q6 below) 9 x 2 bed “ = Total of 60</p> <p><i>Elderly Housing</i> (see Q6 below) 71 x 1 bed dwellings 53 x 2 bed “ 1 x 3 bed “ = Total of 125</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Council Planning Dept • Local Plan | <p>Q 2 New housing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. How much new housing is being planned in the area that you know of or can find out about?? b. What type is it? c. Where is it? | <p>Based on CDC policy on new housing up to 2026:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. SE Plan proposes that Chiltern District as a whole provides 120 (new) dwellings per year up to 2026, which equates to 2400 new homes in the District over next 20 years. b. CDC expects development proposals in “settlements” (see c.) to be at densities significantly higher than 30 dwellings per hectare. Preferred option on “affordable” housing is to adopt a minimum target of 30% of all housing in the District to be “affordable” up to 2026. As now, policy would be to require |

affordable housing on sites of 15 or more dwellings (gross).

- c. Gt Missenden (inc. Prestwood) is identified as a “main settlement” along with Chesham, Amersham & Chalfont St Peter. Preferred option is to locate majority of new housing in these settlements plus Little Chalfont, Chalfont St Giles & Holmer Green.

2 preferred options on Green Belt (GB): to maintain the extent of GB coverage and the GB boundaries defined in the adopted 1997 local plan proposals map and, within the GB, to identify settlement areas and rows of dwellings where limited infill residential development will be permitted.

HP16 is within an AONB, thus ensuring special consideration as regards new dwellings, but also worth noting that the Community Plan does envisage some development in HP16, as was the case with the existing local plan.

From CDC note produced as a result of direct correspondence, it is envisaged that the numbers of dwellings to be sited in particular areas in the District will not be determined before 2008 when production of the Site Allocations Development Plan Document will be commenced.

| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local estate agents • County council • Local knowledge | <p>Q 3 Housing costs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What is the average cost of buying or renting property in and around your town? b. Can local people afford to buy houses in the area? c. Is there a supply of affordable (social) housing at below-market prices? | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. £120,000 to buy a basic flat and from £275,000 for houses upwards to £2m+ for large detached. Rentals run from £500 pcm up to £3000 pcm. Social Housing Average Current Rent: 1 bed dwelling = £84.60 per week 2 bed dwelling = £85.77 per week 3 bed dwelling = £91.24 per week b. Yes, generally, providing they are high earners. Also much movement in from London & environs. However, children of local people unable to afford to buy locally unless parental financial support available. c. Not within HP16 (few ex-local authority properties in the past) – one estate agent’s comment being “nothing sells at below-market price except houses artificially cheapened by government”. <p>No “starter homes” available in HP16 other than perhaps on Lodge Lane estate in Prestwood. Nearby towns eg. High Wycombe & Aylesbury may have starter homes but tends to mean high density.</p> |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Council figures for Housing Investment Programme • Local charities • Local survey | <p>Q 4 Homeless people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. How many people are homeless in the area? b. How does this compare with regional and national averages? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. National Neighbourhood Stats for Chiltern Local Authority area (inc. HP16) = 121 households (12.5%); 37 households in temp accomm @ 31/3/05 b. SE region = 12,455 households (6.9%); England = 121,179 households (7.8%) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Council | <p>Q 5 Housing priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Does the local council give local people priority in accessing affordable housing? | <p>Not within HP16 but have read about a scheme in nearby Winchmore Hill and hear that there maybe such a plan for Princes Risborough.</p> |

| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> District Council and Housing Association | <p>Q 6 Housing for older people</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Is there any supported housing in and around your town for the elderly? Does this meet current demands? | <p>a. Yes – Chalk Leys, Gt Missenden -Freemantle Trust – 40 places old age; Cherry Orchard, Prestwood – Paradigm Housing – 31 x 1 bed dwellings; Tanton House, Prestwood – 18 x 1 bed dwellings – Paradigm Housing. (Also see Q1 above)</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Abbeyfield, Gt Miss – 15 beds – very sheltered accom.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Woodlands Park Residential Home – 40 places – Dementia over 65 yrs old with mental health problems – Private ownership: BML Healthcare £459-675pw</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Coulsom Court, Prestwood & Giles Gate, Prestwood – Individually privately owned 1 & 2 bed dwellings with access to live-in Warden</p> <p>-----</p> <p>b. Not known</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> District /Parish Council Social Services Local knowledge | <p>Q 7 Do you know of any other support services for the elderly and/or disabled?</p> | <p>Not researched. What is meant by “support services”?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Age Concern transport? Volunteer taxi service to hospitals etc? Lunch clubs? Can investigate further ? Shall I ? (Barbara Rowett) |

| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Census of Population Council Tax records (compare number of 2nd/holiday homes with total number of households) | <p>Q 8 Is there a high level of second home ownership or holiday lets locally? Are these confined to particular parts of the area? (for example, those attractive to tourists or near business centres, etc)?</p> | <p>No.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> District Council Housing Investment Programme or Housing Needs Surveys Local knowledge | <p>Q 9 Empty houses:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Is there a high level of vacancy or empty houses? Where are these located? | <p>a. & b. Not known.</p> <p>Halifax plc study on facts of life in Bucks estimates 2.8% of homes empty in Chiltern District</p> <p>However, CDC states it is keen to encourage owners of long-term empty properties to bring them back into use. CDC in partnership with Bucks Community Action (BCA) via a Rural Housing Enabler (Sam Galvin 01296 421036)</p> |

3: This part is called a SWOT analysis, where you identify Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. Once you have the information, use this table to show the Strengths and Weaknesses in the local housing stock. Also flag up where there are Opportunities to improve things or where there might be Threats in the future. The conclusions give the basis for a summary that can go forward to the Healthcheck Report.

You may need to tick more than one column for each question.

| | | | | | | | |
|--|--|-------------|----------|----------|-------------|--------|----------------|
| <p>You need to consider what the information you have gathered (as well as your own judgement) tells you in the light of these questions:</p> | <p>Write your answers here. Base them on the information you have gathered and on the thoughts/opinions of the whole group.</p> | Conclusion | | | | | |
| | | It's a Fact | Strength | Weakness | Opportunity | Threat | Need more info |

| | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <p>Is there sufficient housing available to meet the needs of all sectors of the population? If there are shortfalls, where are they? Do current housing strategies and plans take these areas into account?</p> | <p>In local estate agents' opinions local supply does NOT meet local needs; always a demand for character properties of all sizes in private sector.</p> <p>Paradigm Housing Group has 361 applicants on waiting list for Social housing who have expressed an interest in living within HP16.</p> <p>Estimated shortfall of 12,922 dwellings across Chiltern & S. Bucks (over 2002-07 period) to accommodate households in housing need, over 90% of shortfall being 1 & 2 bedroom properties.</p> <p>Within private housing market, high property prices & limited land supplies emphasise limited availability of smaller dwellings. Cost of buying & renting in CDC very high. Many in housing-need aspire to be home owner-occupiers but expect to have to rent privately instead. Many households who make up this shortfall could potentially afford to buy or rent privately. However, affordable housing need still accounts for 4,820 within overall shortfall. In Chiltern District, estimated net requirement of 620 affordable dwellings pa, with parishes of Chesham, Chal-St-Pter & Amersham showing most significant levels of affordable housing need.</p> <p>Impact of high property prices most keenly felt in smaller rural settlements (inc. HP16). GB & AONB restrictions mean scope for new development in these smaller settlements often limited eg. The Lee, Little Missenden. Delivering additional affordable housing in HP16 difficult given above restrictions.</p> <p>Key workers (in health, police, fire etc) cannot afford to buy/rent locally, presenting problems for employers in both recruiting & retaining staff.</p> | | | | | | |
| <p>Is the available housing stock in good condition?</p> | <p>Mostly yes.</p> | | | | | | |

WORKSHEET S3: HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Task: to assess public health and community safety in the town and surrounding countryside

1: Introduction to the task

Residents of market towns and their surrounding countryside need access to adequate healthcare and emergency services including ambulances, police and fire services. Community safety is also an important consideration. Local authorities are required under the Crime and Disorder Act 1999 to produce a strategy for fighting crime. Audits of community safety issues including crime and the fear of crime may have been undertaken to inform these strategies.

2: Getting the following information will help you assess the healthcare and emergency services provision for your town and surrounding countryside

| Sub-section 3: Community Safety | | |
|--|--|---|
| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Police Authority (ask for local, regional & national crime statistics & policy) Local knowledge | <p>Q 7 How do you perceive crime rates in your town/surrounding area? Can you find any data to show how crime compares to national averages?</p> | <p>Perceived crime rates: Many crimes are committed but the police assume that the people hereabouts will claim on their insurance, which is becoming less & less likely as premiums mount & excesses increase. Also stealing occurs across fields, where the police are not equipped to go- garden machinery, statuary, gardenfurniture & plants-even when they've been traced the police are reluctant to retrieve them from no-go areas.</p> <p>April – June 2005 National average 26.4 crimes per 1,000 population Chiltern district 16.9 crimes per 1,000 population Source: www.crimestatistics.org.uk</p> <p>Experian survey : Chiltern district top of league for low crime rate.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Police Authority for local crime statistics Fear of crime survey for | <p>Q 8 Fear of crime: a. Is the fear of crime significantly worse than actual crime rates? b. If yes, what factors are contributing to these fears?</p> | <p>Personal view of researcher: Older people tend to be more fearful anyway but with a minimal police presence what can you expect. I haven't seen one in our area since I witnessed a crime and he came to interview me in my own home 18 months ago/</p> |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>comparison with actual statistics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local knowledge | <p>c. Are there any crime prevention measures in place? (CCTV / adequate lighting etc)</p> | <p>Best Value Review – Community Safety Reducing Fear of Crime in Older People Report April 2004</p> <p>‘Whilst there are low rates of crime in the county, the level of fear of crime is comparatively high, particularly amongst older women.’</p> <p>Lots of crime prevention initiatives – for example, free timer lights being given to residents currently.</p> |
|--|--|--|

| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local knowledge | <p>Q 9</p> <p>Which areas in your town show visible evidence of vandalism, unlit streets, litter or graffiti?</p> | <p>There are lots of unlit streets (Church Street), Missenden High Street after fire station.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Police Authority Local knowledge | <p>Q 10</p> <p>What is the level of local police presence (for example, police stations/mobile stations/local or community police officers/community support)?</p> | <p>1 Police Office in Great Missenden 2 Area Beat Officers 1 Police Community Support Officer Full 999 response (24 hours).</p> |

3: This part is called a SWOT analysis, where you identify Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. Once you have the information, use this table to show the Strengths and Weaknesses in public health and community safety. Also flag up where there are Opportunities to improve things or where there might be Threats in the future. The conclusions give the basis for a summary that can go forward to the Healthcheck Report.

| You need to consider what the information you have gathered (as well as your own judgement) tells you in the light of these questions: | Write your answers here. Base them on the information you have gathered and on the thoughts/opinions of the whole group. | Conclusion | | | | | |
|--|--|-------------|----------|----------|-------------|--------|----------------|
| | | It's a Fact | Strength | Weakness | Opportunity | Threat | Need more info |
| Is there adequate access to a range of healthcare and social care services? Where could access to, or the quality of provision, be improved? | | | | | | | |
| Does your town in general provide a safe and healthy environment to live in? | | | | | | | |
| Is a good standard provided by the emergency services? | | | | | | | |
| Is there a good strategy to fight crime and is the community protected? What opportunities are there to improve provision? | | | | | | | |

WORKSHEET S5: SPORT, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACE

Task: to find out basic information about the use and quality of sport and leisure facilities in both the town and the surrounding countryside

1: Introduction to the task

Access to sport, leisure and open space facilities contributes to a healthy community. In order to assess what is already available and what residents would like to see you can:

- Undertake a survey of people who use existing facilities and ask them what they think about the range and quality of existing provision.

Sport and leisure clubs will be an important source of information. Local schools and youth groups may also be able to help.

2: Getting the following information will help you to assess the quality and use of sport and leisure facilities in your area.

| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
|---|--|---|
| Sub-section 1: Sport & Leisure Facilities | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local sports groups • User surveys • Local knowledge • Local library | <p>Q 1 Sports and leisure facilities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Where are local sports and leisure facilities located? b. Are they in good condition? c. How well used are these facilities? d. How affordable are these facilities for local residents? | <p>a1. Sprinters sports and fitness club, Honor End lane, Pwd. a 2. Weights and measures fitness studio, South Heath a 3. Private tennis club, London Rd, GM a 4. Public play and recreation areas - Buryfield, GM: playground, tennis courts, football pitch: - Prestwood common: small playground, playing field, facilities for older children, Youth Centre: - Windsor lane, Gt Kingshill: small playground and field - Hyde Heath: small playground and field - Ballinger Common: children’s play area, football pitch and cricket square. b. On a1-3, no info. Presumed well cared-for because users are charged. On a4, my judgment would be fair to medium; maintenance and cleaning could be improved. c. a1-3 no info found. a4. generally well used d. All at a4 are free of charge. There has been criticism that Sprinters is too expensive for young people</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local sports groups • Library • Local knowledge • Local schools | <p>Q 2 Shared facilities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Which local school/college facilities are open for public use? b. Which are available inside or outside school hours/term time? | <p>No info found</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • | | |

| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local sports groups • Local survey • Local knowledge | <p>Q 3 Do you know of any needs for sports & leisure facilities which local people would like but which are unmet?</p> | <p>People often say they want a swimming pool in Prestwood and believed they were contributing to one in fund-raising efforts over many years. Many expected the new sports centre (Sprinters) to have one and were disappointed. But this had significant external funding. The cost of a swimming pool (capital and running costs) would be very high so charges would be high as well.</p> <p>Children’s play facilities in Prestwood are generally seen as inadequate. GM’s main playground was built using locally raised funds, largely from events. A new group with Parish Council involvement is fund-raising for a new playground on Prestwood Common.</p> |

Sub-section 2: Open Spaces

| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local user surveys • Local plan proposal maps • Parish, District & County Councils • Tourist Information • Local knowledge | <p>Q 4 Open space:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Where are there areas of open space? b. What facilities do they contain? For example, do they have safe play areas and toilets? c. How well are these open areas/facilities used? d. Which areas or facilities are the most popular? e. What do people find most attractive about these areas? f. Which areas of open space need, and get, continued maintenance or protection? g. Which areas of open space suffer from poor maintenance, litter, graffiti or vandalism? | <p>See answers to question 1.</p> <p>There are also woodlands and footpaths throughout the area.</p> <p>Some allotments are available – details with GMPC</p> |

| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
|--|---|-------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Council (ask for Local Plan development proposals) • Current planning applications • Private sector sports and leisure providers • Local knowledge | <p>Q 5 Do you know of any potential threats to open space in/around your town such as from future developments?</p> | |

3: This part is called a SWOT analysis, where you identify Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. Once you have the information, use the tickboxes in this table to show the Strengths and Weaknesses in the provision of or access to sports, leisure or open space facilities. Also flag up where there are Opportunities to improve things or where there might be Threats in the future. The conclusions give the basis for a summary that can go forward to the Healthcheck Report.

You may need to tick more than one column for each question.

| You need to consider what the information you have gathered (as well as your own judgement) tells you in the light of these questions: | Write your answers here. Base them on the information you have gathered and on the thoughts/opinions of the whole group. | Conclusion | | | | | |
|--|--|----------------|----------|--------------|-----------------|--------|--------------|
| | | It's a Fact | Strength | Weakne ss | Opportu nity | Threat | Need more |
| Are there sufficient sports, leisure and open space facilities to meet the needs of residents? Where are there any gaps or shortfalls? | | | | | | | |
| How well maintained are these areas and facilities? Where is additional management or maintenance needed? | | | | | | | |
| Are the facilities accessible and affordable for residents? | | | | | | | |
| Are any of these facilities or spaces under threat? What plans are there to ensure that provision is sufficient to meet future demand? | | | | | | | |



WORKSHEET T2: EASE OF ACCESS TO SERVICES

Task: to identify how easy it is for people to get around the area

1: Introduction to the task

These questions help assess how easy it is to access services, mainly by public transport. The location of key services will have been identified through other worksheets, in particular retail and town centre services, training and education, health and public safety and culture and heritage. Note that:

- Travel times by car can be surveyed by undertaking the journey
- Distances can be derived from mapping or as part of the journey times survey.

Local Transport Plans (LTPs):

The LTP system is built round 5-year integrated transport strategies, devised at local level in partnership with the community. Local transport authorities in England, (outside London), are due to submit their next Local Transport Plans for 2006/7 to 2010/11 to the Department of Transport in July 2005. The purposes of LTPs are to:

promote good transport planning
provide a basis for tracking performance locally
inform the allocation of LTP capital funding

Guidance on preparing LTPs has been issued to Local Authorities. This includes a new requirement for accessibility strategies, including local targets for accessibility improvements. These strategies should be underpinned by accessibility assessments. Authorities should submit an accessibility strategy in their 2005 LTP submission, but will be allowed to refine these strategies until the end of November 2005.

The quality of accessibility strategies in LTPs will be one of the factors taken into account in allocating LTP integrated transport block funding.

The healthcheck process could help to inform the LTP, as accessibility strategies are designed to be set in the context of the wider vision and objectives for an area, as for example set out in a community strategy or Market Town action plan.

2: Getting the following information will help to show how easy or difficult it is to use public transport to get to key services in the area.

| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
|---|---|---|
| Sub-section 1: Timetabling and accessibility of public transport | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Transport Partnership • Bus and train operators • County Council transport department | <p>Q 1 Information points: Where are the public transport information points? What is the quality of the information offered?</p> | <p>Bus stops, railway station, telephone, internet, library, newsagent .</p> <p>Providers are Arriva buses, Turner’s Minibuses, and Chiltern Railways.</p> <p>There is a Chiltern Dial-a-Ride – information is available on the Buckinghamshire County Council website, transport section.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus and train timetables • District council • Local Knowledge | <p>Q 2 Are bus and train times from outlying villages to the town convenient for getting to and from work and school?</p> | <p>Chiltern Railways from Great Missenden has a good service in the directions of London (via Amersham, Chalfont & Latimer, Chorleywood, Rickmansworth, Harrow-on-the-Hill) and Aylesbury (via Wendover and Stoke Mandeville). First train in London direction 0545, last 2249; first train in Aylesbury direction 0715, last 0038. Off peak services to London at 19 and 49 minutes past the hour, and to Aylesbury at 8 and 38 minutes past the hour.</p> <p>Arriva bus 345 & 348 (High Wycombe, Heath End, Prestwood, Great Missenden). First bus</p> |



| | | |
|--|--|---|
| | | <p>leaves Great Missenden 0657 and Prestwood 0702, last Prestwood 2212, Great Missenden 2217. There are 15 buses a day, running hourly off peak.</p> <p>South Heath & Ballinger are served by Turner’s Minibuses, running once on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays only, with a school days service from Ballinger to Chesham (not South Heath).</p> <p>Turner’s minibuses also offer a similar restricted service between Great Missenden and Chesham Broadway.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local bus operators • Local knowledge | <p>Q 3 What times are the last Friday and Saturday night bus services from the nearest large town to your town and to surrounding villages? Is this adequate to meet local needs?</p> | |

| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Council • Bus operators • Rural Transport Partnerships | <p>Q 4 What special public and private transport services* are there for people who are less able?</p> <p><i>*For example, bus, taxi, or alternative community or voluntary transport.</i></p> | <p>Chiltern Railways are accessible to the less able and assistance is given to passengers at Principal and Staffed Stations who are asked to give 24 hours' notice if assistance is required. On the line passing through Great Missenden Principal Stations are London Marylebone and Aylesbury, and Staffed Station is Great Missenden. At unstaffed stations Chiltern Railways publicise the location of the nearest Principal and Staffed station and advise passengers of the best method of travelling to that station. On occasions where disabled passengers can't travel between their local and closest accessible stations Chiltern Railways will arrange connecting transport (such as an accessible taxi) at no extra cost.</p> <p>The Arriva buses used on the route are not accessible, they are mostly old stock.</p> <p>People in wheelchairs cannot use the buses and can usually only use the trains by arranging for assistance. People who use walking aids should be able to use the trains but may need help on the buses – this help is usually not available as the drivers do not assist.</p> |



| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Route maps from the bus operators • Measuring the distance directly from a map • Quick 'on the ground' surveys • Local knowledge | <p>Q 5 What are the walking distances from the main bus set down/pick up places to the focal point of the town centre?</p> | <p>The bus terminates at the train station in Great Missenden, which is right next to the village. In Prestwood the bus stops in the centre.</p> |
|---|--|--|

| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local survey of the location of facilities • Bus and train timetables • Route maps • Surveys of travel times | <p>Q 6 How does travelling from the villages to the town by car compare to using public transport for going to the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hospital • secondary school • job centre • supermarket • library • leisure/sports centre • cinema <p><i>Pick three rural settlements that have poor, adequate and good public transport links.</i></p> | <p>The NHS hospitals are in High Wycombe, Amersham, and Stoke Mandeville. The bus goes to High Wycombe (31 minutes from Great Missenden) where it is a 10 minute walk, or taxi, or another bus to the hospital so the car would be easier, but parking is very difficult at the hospital. The train goes to Aylesbury where there are buses to Stoke Mandeville hospital,, so a direct journey could be made more easily by car . It is a big site, so parking should not be as difficult as it is at High Wycombe. Amersham Hospital can be accessed by train from Great Missenden to Amersham (6 minutes), bus to Old Amersham; alternatively there are taxis at Amersham Station. Again the car would be easier, but parking is difficult at Amersham Hospital.</p> <p>Schools can be accessed by bus or car, but car is discouraged. Walking and bicycling is being encouraged.</p> <p>The job centre in High Wycombe could be accessed by bus, and in Aylesbury by train (18 minutes from Great Missenden). It would be possible to go to Chesham job centre from South Heath and Ballinger on Wednesdays, leaving</p> |



| | | |
|--|---|---|
| | | <p>South Heath 0925, arriving Chesham 0953, and returning on the bus from Chesham at 1215.</p> <p>There are supermarkets in Great Missenden (Somerfield) and Prestwood (Rusts) that can be accessed by bus.</p> <p>The Library in Great Missenden can be accessed by bus.</p> <p>There is a Leisure/sports centre in Prestwood, but it is about a mile from the bus stop along a road without a pavement.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Transport Plan • Bus and train operators • Local knowledge | <p>Q 7 Are there any planned improvements to rural services that you are aware of that will improve services where the demand exists?</p> | <p>The frequency of buses was increased on 30 October 2005, but did not appear to be publicised.</p> |
| <p>Sub-section 2: Alternatives to private cars and public transport</p> | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County | <p>Q 8</p> | <p>buckscarshare is a free matching service which</p> |



| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council • Bus operators • Rural Transport Partnerships | <p>What car clubs or travel share schemes are there in and around your town?</p> | <p>has 123,177 members. The recommended arrangement is for the passenger to pay towards mileage, or the cost of petrol is split.</p> <p>Chiltern Railways allow free parking at any time to cars with 3 rail passengers.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourist information • Town web site • Library | <p>Q 9 Are there safe, off-road cycle routes between the town and villages?</p> | <p>According to the Sustrans web site there are cycle routes serving the whole area, mostly either National Cycle Network on-road routes or other signed on-road routes. Part of the route between Prestwood and Great Missenden and around Frith Hill is National Cycle Network traffic-free route (e.g. through woods and alongside paths).</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet (search for all the public service providers, eg, local health trust, education authority, district council) • Local survey of public internet access points | <p>Q 10 Can you find information about public services in and around your town on-line? Are there public places to access the internet?</p> | |



| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library • Local council | <p>Q 11. What mobile services are available in the villages?</p> <p><i>Look, for example, at local fruit and vegetable delivery box schemes, mobile shop(s), libraries, and meals on wheels services.</i></p> | <p>Local supermarket will deliver, also deliveries can be arranged via the internet shopping system from major supermarkets. There are several organic food delivery services for Buckinghamshire. Almost anything can now be bought on line or by mail order and delivered. There is a mobile library and meals on wheels services.</p> |



3: This part is called a SWOT analysis, where you identify Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. Once you have the information, use this table to show the Strengths and Weaknesses in the ways people can travel around the area. Also flag up where there are Opportunities to improve things or where there might be Threats in the future. The conclusions give the basis for a summary that can go forward to the Healthcheck Report.

You may need to tick more than one column for each question.

| You need to consider what the information you have gathered (as well as your own judgement) tells you in the light of these questions: | Write your answers here. Base them on the information you have gathered and on the thoughts/opinions of the whole group. | Conclusion | | | | | |
|--|--|----------------|----------|--------------|-----------------|--------|--------------|
| | | It's a Fact | Strength | Weakne ss | Opportu nity | Threat | Need more |
| Are bus and train times from outlying villages to the town convenient for people going to/from work and school? | Great Missenden is fairly well served by bus and train. Prestwood & Heath End are reasonably well served by bus. South Heath & Ballinger have poor service, though there is a school days service. | | | | | | |
| Where are the gaps in the rural transport services where demand exists? | South Heath & Ballinger has an extremely poor bus service. Access from Great Missenden to Chesham is very poor No direct access from Prestwood to Chesham No direct service from the area to Old Amersham | | | | | | |
| Is public transport accessible to the less able? | Only the trains, not the buses | | | | | | |



| | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Is information on public transport easy to obtain? | Yes | | | | | | |
| Do public transport services, including special services such as Dial-A-Ride, need to be more widely advertised or more actively promoted? | Yes, though special services are probably promoted to the people who need them. But the bus transport needs more publicity generally to encourage people to use it and to make changes known | | | | | | |
| Is there a need to relocate bus stops to bring them closer to the town centre? | No | | | | | | |
| How easy is it to get to health, education, cultural and retail services from outlying villages by public transport rather than by car? | | | | | | | |
| In which parts of the area is access to services a problem? | | | | | | | |
| How easy it is to access electronic information about public services rather than having to physically travel to get it? | | | | | | | |
| Are mobile services able to replace the need for people to travel? | | | | | | | |



WORKSHEET T3: EASE OF MOVEMENT AROUND THE TOWN

Task: to assess how easy it is for people to move around the town

1: Introduction to the task

There may be a need to carry out several surveys to collect all the relevant information, including:

- Traffic and parking counts
- Travel to work and school data
- Assuming barriers to mobility
- A cycle review

Guidance on undertaking these surveys is given in Data Sources and Survey Methods. It may prove useful to map some of the information collected.

2: Getting the following information will help assess how easy it is for people to use different means of transport and indicate where there may be shortcomings in the transport network and infrastructure

| Starting points for information | Information you need | Answers and notes |
|--|---|---|
| Sub-section 1: Traffic management | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> County Council's transport or highways department | <p>Q 1</p> <p>How many road traffic accidents involving pedestrians and cyclists have there been at 'blackspots' in the town?</p> | <p>No information available on the web sites relating to pedestrians and cyclists</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Traffic Management Strategy</i> <i>Local Transport Plan survey</i> <i>Local knowledge</i> | <p>Q 2</p> <p>What traffic management measures (speed humps / cameras etc) are in place?</p> | <p>Traffic management measures in place are:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speed reductions have been introduced and further measures proposed by the County Council Traffic Calming in Great Missenden High Street. The County Council review indicates that a special review should be undertaken by the County Council to evaluate the effect of the calming islands on traffic and pedestrians including imposing weight restriction In the last year sixteen accidents have occurred (no injury to drivers or pedestrians), four reported to police, resulting in bollards being hit/replaced and vehicle damage Bollards adjacent to the mini roundabout at junction with High Street and Station Approach and in |

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| | | <p>Station Approach are frequently damaged requiring replacement</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local knowledge Traffic count data collected by County and District Councils | <p>Q 3 Where are the seriously congested junctions or parts of the local road network, and at what times are they at their worst?</p> | <p>Traffic is very dense in the morning and evening rush hours (workandschools) in particular at the junction of the A413 with the A4128 and the A4128 with the High Street and Station Approach.</p> <p>The County Council has proposals to alter layout of junction of A413 and A4128 to reduce queuing.</p> <p>Great Missenden – and other places where there are schools – are very congested during the school runs.</p> <p>Prestwood High Street is difficult to negotiate because of parked cars.</p> <p>Places where there is conflict between pedestrians and cars, buses or heavy vehicles.</p> <p>A4128 in Prestwood where there are shops, village hall, doctor’s surgeries etc.</p> <p>Great Missenden shops and the 2 mini roundabouts from the Link Road to A4128, and the junction with the entrance to the railway station.</p> <p>Pedestrianised shopping streets.</p> <p>None. Very narrow pavements in Great Missenden</p> |



High Street, which is a particular problem because of the high numbers of people – particularly children including school groups – visiting the Dahl museum.

Footpaths are generally badly maintained and street lighting not repaired.



| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bus operators | <p>Q 4 Do traffic management measures prevent buses accessing the focal points of the town centre such as the main shopping areas?</p> <p><i>Look, for example, at one-way systems, traffic calming, and pedestrianisation.</i></p> | <p>No, buses stop at the railway station in Great Missenden and by the shops in Prestwood. However the junction leading to the station is not easy for large vehicles such as buses especially as it is on a busy hill. The entrance to the station is under review with proposal for a roundabout</p> |



| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canvas the opinions of local bus operators • Survey users • Local knowledge | <p>Q 5 Do traffic conditions and/or traffic management measures in the town mean that buses experience delays or unreliability?</p> | <p>Occasionally congestion in High Wycombe can lead to delays at the start and end of bus journeys. Prestwood High Street with parked cars can cause minor delays.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canvas the opinions of local bus operators • Survey users | <p>Q 6 What makes public transport a less attractive option?</p> <p><i>Consider, for example, the walking distance from bus stops to the main shopping areas, the length of journey due to indirect routes and/or congestion, and quality of the vehicles.</i></p> | <p>Very poor quality (old and uncomfortable) Arriva buses used 345 route, and the drivers are not always careful and considerate. The journey is not direct and takes about 10 minutes longer than if it was through the Hughenden Valley.</p> |

| Sub-section 2: Car parking | | |
|---|---|---|
| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car park operators • District Council • Survey • Local knowledge | <p>Q 7 Parking:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> How many short and long-term car park spaces (including park and ride), coach parks, off street parking and disabled parking spaces are available? Where are they? How well used are they, and does this vary according to the time/day /season? What restrictions/charges are in place? Do you think this is adequate? | <p>Great Missenden Link Road 75 spaces plus 2 disabled Prestwood High Street 47 spaces plus 4 disabled Monday to Saturday 7.30 am to 6pm Charges up to 1 hour free, 2 hours £1, 3 hours £1.50, 4 hours £2.00, up to 10½ hours £3</p> <p>Station car park 407 spaces plus 4 disabled. Cycle rack Charges £4 peak, £2.50 off-peak 3 rail passengers travelling in one car park free</p> <p>Buryfield (off the Link Road) parking is for the staff of the Parish Office, people using the Memorial Hall and Buryfield, but is used by commuters parking there all day. Parish Council is considering leasing area to Chiltern District Council to include in SPA, other than area outside Parish Office and Memorial Hall</p> <p>There is a coach turning and parking area on the Buryfield for school buses for children from the Church of England school and when not used by the school coaches for visitors to the Dahl Museum.</p> <p>All car parks are mostly well used, especially since the arrival of the Dahl Museum.</p> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car park survey | <p>Q 8 Are the majority of short-term parking places within 400 metres of the main shopping area?</p> | <p>Yes High Street and Link Road 1 hour no return Parish Council is raising the 'incorrect' notices in Great Missenden High Street and Link Road permitting all day parking free on Saturdays ,which are the only shopping areas in Chiltern not having any restriction.</p> |
| <p>Sub-section 3: Ease of access</p> | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test in person • Survey visitors • Visitor Surveys conducted by the local Tourist Board | <p>Q 9 Using signposts only, both as a pedestrian and as a car user, how easy is to find the way from key locations such as the short-stay car park, train station and bus station to the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • main shopping street • library • tourist information centre | <p>The Dahl Museum and parking is well signed. There is a village sign by the Library. There are no signs at the railway station (except one for the museum and parking), nor a map of Great Missenden, so anybody arriving at the station would not have directions to the village.</p> |



| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local survey Local maps | <p>Q 10 Are the majority of disabled parking places within 250 metres of the main focal points of the town centre such as the main shopping area?</p> | <p>Yes.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disability or Access Officer of the district council Internet search | <p>Q 11 Where is the shop mobility scheme, when is it open and how many motorised wheelchairs does it have?</p> | <p>N/A</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local survey | <p>Q 12 Do the majority of pedestrian crossings have tactile markings and audible warnings such as pelican crossings?</p> | <p>There are two pedestrian crossings, one in Great Missenden and one in Prestwood which have tactile markings but not audible warnings.</p> <p>There are tactile markings and dropped kerbs at crossing places.</p> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local survey | <p>Q 13 Are the pavements in good condition and are there dropped kerbs at crossing points?</p> | <p>Pavements too narrow in Great Missenden, and the condition of pavements generally is variable. There are dropped kerbs at crossing places in main streets.</p> |
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| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District or county council disability or access officer • Local survey | <p>Q 14 Which public buildings and shops have disabled access?</p> | <p>Many properties in the area are listed buildings. Where possible buildings have been adapted or provision made for the disabled.</p> |
| <p>Sub-section 4: Cycling and walking</p> | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Council • Local Transport Plan | <p>Q 15 Where are the main foot and cycle paths within the town?</p> | <p>The main foot paths in Great Missenden and Prestwood are in the shopping areas. Some streets don't have footpaths – e.g. London Road from the Nags Head to the Chiltern Hospital, busy roads such as Nags Head Lane (which are dangerous especially for school children to walk along), and the road from Prestwood leading to the Sprinters Leisure Centre.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourist Information • County council • Library • Local survey | <p>Q 16 Are there dedicated/segregated cycle routes linking residential areas to the town centre and to local schools?</p> <p><i>Choose two or three residential areas within 2 miles and describe the route to the town centre and to schools in terms of the:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>length of journey on dedicated/segregated cycle route</i> • <i>length of journey on quiet residential roads</i> | <p>Part of the route between Prestwood and Great Missenden and around Frith Hill is National Cycle Network traffic-free route (e.g. through woods and alongside paths) but is probably not suitable for school children</p> |



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>length of journey on major roads</i>• <i>number of main roads crossed and presence of any dedicated crossing points</i>• <i>where the route is well-lit</i> | |
|--|--|--|



| Starting points for information | Information you will need | Answers and notes |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local survey | <p>Q17 Is it easy for people to walk to/from school?</p> <p><i>Choose two or three residential areas within a mile of both a primary and secondary school and describe the route in terms of:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>route length and how long it takes</i> <i>number of main roads crossed and presence of any dedicated crossing points and/or assistance available</i> <i>where the route is unlit</i> | <p>Not for those that come from outside the area, or some distance. However once in Great Missenden village it is possible to walk and is encouraged by the schools, though many parents drive their children as near to schools as they can.</p> <p>Great Missenden CofE School and Gateway school have travel plans. Prestwood schools to be considered.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local survey | <p>Q 18 What secure cycle parking is there at convenient locations throughout the town?</p> <p><i>Look, for example, at the railway station, in the main shopping areas, at the bus station, and at schools.</i></p> | <p>3 racks by Somerfield, a cycle shelter in Great Missenden station car park.</p> |

3: This part is called a SWOT analysis, where you identify Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. Once you have the information, use the table to show the Strengths and Weaknesses in transport and travel arrangements in the town. Also flag up where there are Opportunities to improve things or where there might be Threats in the future. The conclusions give the basis for a summary that can go forward to the Healthcheck Report.

You may need to tick more than one column for each question.

| You need to consider what the information you have gathered (as well as your own judgement) tells you in the light of these questions: | Write your answers here. Base them on the information you have gathered and on the thoughts/opinions of the whole group. | Conclusion | | | | | |
|--|--|----------------|----------|--------------|-----------------|--------|--------------|
| | | It's a Fact | Strength | Weakne ss | Opportu nity | Threat | Need more |
| What plans are there to resolve traffic 'hot spots'? | | | | | | | |
| Are there accident 'black spots' where there is a need to introduce safety measures to protect pedestrians and cyclists? | | | | | | | |
| Are there any opportunities to increase bus access and circulation in the town centre? | | | | | | | |
| Are there opportunities to extend pedestrian prioritisation in the shopping areas? | | | | | | | |

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| Is it easy for people, including those with disabilities, to find their way around town? | | | | | | | |
| How could the network of footpaths and cycle routes be improved for all sectors of the community? | | | | | | | |
| Do the cycle paths and footpaths connect places that people wish to go to? | | | | | | | |
| In what ways could dedicated/segregated cycle routes and footpaths linking residential areas to the town centre and to local schools be improved? | | | | | | | |