

## Summary of things not so good about Deal

**Facilities:** Whilst there are a wide range of facilities in Deal there are still a number of issues including a sense of retail dwindling; lack of a large venue and cinema; a tired leisure centre; lack of suitable indoor play facilities; and the embarrassingly poor state of public toilets, telephone boxes and notice boards.

**Transport:** Under investment in highways and public transport is evident with issues including: lack of bus services in town and the surrounding rural communities; inadequate parking facilities; poor roads; poor cycle infrastructure; poor pedestrian signage; minimal traffic management leading to congestion and speeding; deterioration of the station; and insufficient rail services.

**The Next Generation:** Whilst the adults are generally trashing the planet for future generations, in Deal we're also appearing to be failing to provide the next generation with things to do, leading to vandalism across the Town, failing them in secondary school and then failing to provide adequate job opportunities.

**Housing:** The rash of housing development imposed by KCC and central government is felt at this most easterly part of the county with small, medium and even 100+ developments going ahead with inadequate investment in infrastructure and little regard for the needs of local people, young, old or poor. Along with questionable designs, poor quality builds, too many large houses and minimal social housing, this is all felt to be damaging Deal not enhancing it.

**Tourism:** A lack of hotel accommodation is leading to more unregulated Air B&Bs which is diminishing the housing stock for local people. Despite being a popular place to visit, there's a sense that there's not enough done to promote Deal as a visitor destination. And once here, visitors are unable to fully discover the area due to a distinct lack of signage.

**Social Issues:** Whilst there appears to be a low crime rate, this doesn't tell the whole story as there is a concern about pockets of anti-social behaviour (High St., Station, Seafront, parks etc.) which is linked to a lack of policing and officer visibility.

**Environment:** People want more trees and more planting to "green the grey". There's also concerns over the general state of Deal's green spaces, along with worries about air pollution, particularly by our congested roads. Separately, there's concerns over rubbish and dog mess.

**Health Service:** There is a concern over the demise of hospital services and the loss of professional NHS staff.

# Summary of suggestions to make things better

## Transport

- Parking
  - Create a Park & Ride scheme located on the A258 south of Walmer and north of Sholden.
  - Investigate the possibility of using school grounds during weekends
- Traffic volume
  - Promote car share and car-pool schemes
  - Increase pedestrian signage to encourage more walking
  - Improve cycling infrastructure
  - Increase bus services
    - Smaller (electric) buses more often
    - Community Buses

## Employment Opportunities

- Promote Deal as a place to *work & live*
- Increase 'professional' opportunities
- Invest in tourism to create more jobs
- Develop Brain Parks
- Improve technology infrastructure
  - Aiding remote working
- Improve secondary education
  - Better supporting young people's futures
  - Add a Grammar Stream

## Housing

Investigate DDC delegating more powers to Town Council Planning to ensure that proposals meet local people's needs including: more smaller properties; more affordable properties; more social housing; more eco-homes/low carbon housing; more facilities such as allotments; more community spaces; more jobs; suitable investments in infrastructure from water and waste management to walking & cycling facilities and roads.

## Tourism

Improve promotion of Deal as a place to visit with better joint working with community leaders, stakeholders, Town Council and District Tourism resource. Key areas to concentrate investment on: access through signage, posters, leaflets, maps, boards and an app; festivals & events; arts and art cluster areas; sports; and history/heritage.

## Community Involvement

Make it easier for community groups to make a positive contribution. Town & District councils to work more collaboratively with community groups.