

**RESPONSE TO CHAPTERS WITHIN THE LOCAL PLAN DIRECTION OF TRAVEL
CONSULTATION DOCUMENT – 18 JANUARY 2021**
Uckfield Town Council

CHAPTER 13 HEALTH

Are there any issues or challenges we have missed?

Provision for good mental health has been omitted. This should include not only access to specialist services, for all support levels, but also opportunities for socialising for all age groups and opportunities for learning to encourage resilience.

Road condition and maintenance. Wealden DC documents and ESCC regularly refer to cycling and walking but a large number of cyclists won't cycle on certain roads or in certain areas due to the roads being dangerous in terms of traffic flows and the road surface. In areas, the road surface breaking up.

With an increasing population there is a need to **provide more recreational facilities to encourage good health and wellbeing**, sports, fitness, walking, play and allotments. General good health and wellbeing.

If there was more business space and more people were able to work in Wealden District with less travel time, more people could work locally and would have more leisure time thus improving their work/life balance and health and wellbeing. A more content population equals a more healthy population.

Do you agree with the proposed policy options?

Yes, but the issues identified in the first section need taking account of.

Do you disagree with any of the options?

No response.

Are there any other policy options we should be considering?

Provision for a range of sport facilities should be included, not just mainstream sports. For example, there is no ice rink in East Sussex (the closest ice rink is Guildford). Should Wealden DC invest in one, it would be a guaranteed money maker (if large enough), as well as encouraging a healthy pursuit. The Link Centre in Swindon, Wiltshire combines an ice rink with swimming pool, trampoline park and sports halls/gym for a variety of activities for all ages and family members.

With an estimate of 32% of the population by 2033 being 65 years or over, more thought must be given to building new retirement homes and flats not just upgrading existing stock. Thought must be given to **retirement villages** e.g. St Georges Court in Burgess Hill. They also need to look at how elderly residents can be supported with dementia within these communities and how council residential homes can be built and improved to support the elderly and vulnerable in our society. There is no provision for these residents at all.

Do you have any other comments in relation to how we can plan for health and wellbeing within the district?

Consider the concepts of resilience and social capital as ways of fostering good health within communities. These necessitate provision of opportunities for communities to get together and support one another. Investigate whether more play zones can be

created, where pedestrians (especially children) are prioritised over traffic. Identify ways to better utilise all green spaces within Wealden, not just the formal ones.

Para 13.12 – they say that people in the north of Wealden district are older than the average profile in the south east or nationally and not enough people are cycling. Older people tend to walk more than cycle. Also more people are going leisure walking than walking to work, particularly as a result of the pandemic.

On the note of cycling, we are aware that there is a bike scheme along the Cuckoo Trail. Has any consideration been given to spreading this wider across the district? With suggestions perhaps for cycle trails. Or sponsorship of electric bikes through the new shops setting up in the area.

Para 13.14 – talks about the four **leisure centres**. Heathfield and Uckfield are going back to ESCC. What does the future hold? The community raised a large amount of money towards the cost of providing the leisure centre. This is a concern for us locally.

Work with parishes to create a book of different walks for each area or add walking routes to the Healthy Wealden website.

There is no mention or reference made within the document about the two community hospitals – primary health is referenced but **the benefits of the two community hospitals are not mentioned anywhere - Crowborough and Uckfield**. These community hospitals provide a broad range of services – medical wards, x ray, minor injury, palliative care, birthing, mental health services, outpatients, physiotherapy, minor surgery, nutrition and dental treatment just to name a few. By having access to these services, it reduces travel, reduces pollution and maintains residents' health and wellbeing by helping to create ease of access for all age groups and needs.