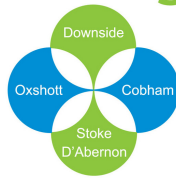


# envisage



for the 21st Century

## PROGRESS REPORT JANUARY 2010

As mentioned in our August Progress Report, our strategy since our survey work was completed has been to act as a catalyst to help existing local organisations to address the concerns which emerged from it, rather than for us to act direct and thereby add to the number of local groups with overlapping ambitions. We have, however, taken direct action in relation to the Elmbridge Core Strategy and the One Elmbridge Partnership. Details are set out below, together with an update on some of the other initiatives we have taken:-

- **Elmbridge Core Strategy:** We have had two very helpful meetings with representatives of the Elmbridge Borough Council at which the representations which we made (copies of which are available on our website [www.envisage.org.uk](http://www.envisage.org.uk)) were discussed in detail. As a result of this, an aspiration to resolve the majority of the issues and matters of local concern identified in our Report has been adopted in one form or another within the text of the EBC's Strategy document. Following the expiry of the initial consultation period the final version of this document has been produced by EBC and is now available on their website or at the Civic Hall. It will be submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government later this year, but, until 22<sup>nd</sup> February, there remains a final opportunity to make representations in relation to the 'soundness and legal compliance' of the Strategy.  
We are in continuing regular contact with EBC - and Surrey County Council where appropriate - in an effort to promote measures to address the concerns raised in our Report and Action Plan.
- **The One Elmbridge Partnership:** During the course of last year we were invited to join the Board of this partnership which has been set up by Elmbridge Borough Council to co-ordinate and assist the various local groups engaged in helping to alleviate deprivation and improve the sense of community within the Borough. Government statistics have reinforced existing local awareness that pockets of such deprivation do exist within the Elmbridge area and the OEP is set up to help existing agencies address the problem.
- **Chamber of Commerce:** We have continued to develop our relationship with the Cobham Chamber of Commerce and were pleased to support and help to sponsor the restoration of the Christmas lights and decorations in the High Street. We are currently in discussion with the Chamber in relation to the possible introduction of a retailer's Loyalty Card to help promote and assist independent traders and bring about a wider spread and appropriate mix of shops. We are also in continued discussion with the Chamber, in addition to the local authorities as mentioned above, with a view to the improvement of parking arrangements for Cobham.
- **Police:** We have continued our regular contact with the Police and encourage the emphasis which they are currently placing on the importance of community policing and the need for a more visible and approachable police presence within our local community.

- **Health and Medical Services:** At the invitation of the Surrey PCT we attended a seminar/event last July designed to assist it in developing its strategy for commissioning and delivery of medical services and social care in the community. We will attend a follow-up meeting organized by Surrey PCT in February. The Charity RAISE (Regional Action and Involvement South East) has also invited us to attend its Health and Social Care Event in March.
- **Education:** We have remained in touch with Surrey County Council about admission to secondary schools, in particular to Esher Church of England High School. In particular we responded to their recent consultative document on this issue. Our underlying concern remains that, as the population of the area increases, there should be a secondary school in the south of the Borough of Elmbridge. Until such time as there is, students in the Envisage area should have the same opportunity to go to the secondary school of their choice as students in other parts of the Borough.  
We are also in discussion with the Surrey Life-Long Learning Partnership to find ways of addressing the needs of those with learning difficulties and those adults requiring IT help within the Envisage area.

**Transport and 'Green Strategy':** We hope shortly to set up meetings with EBC to discuss mechanisms to address such issues as local public transport, traffic congestion, parking, improvements designed to encourage cycling and use of footpaths and the reduction of our local carbon footprint.

We have been in touch with South West Trains to explore if there is any possibility of improving the facilities for disabled access to and from trains arriving from London at Cobham and Stoke D'Abernon Station, but we have been advised that the land title to the path leading from the station is privately owned and that there is no funding available to meet the substantial cost of creating suitable access.

- **Surrey Infrastructure Forum:** We were represented at two meetings of this forum during 2009, run by Surrey County Council in collaboration with consultants Colin Buchanan and Partners Ltd. The meetings were well attended by representatives of a wide range of local government, transport, housing, emergency services, care and community groups, including the voluntary sector. Their purpose was to distil from the experience of those present what they saw as forthcoming infrastructure priorities as SCC addresses the government's requirement to build some 59,000 new housing units in Surrey by 2026. The findings of the Envisage Survey were highly relevant in this context - and were, unsurprisingly, echoed by many others at the meetings.
- **Cedar Road Site:** We have continued to stress to both EBC and SCC the strength of the local community's desire to see community use maximized on this site. Despite our regular enquiries of Surrey County Council, at the time of writing, there remains no further definite news about its future.
- **Cobham Heritage Day and Cobham Open Day:** We supported and manned a stall at both of these local events and updated local residents on the activities and initiatives which we were undertaking.