

Task 7

This task asked participants to think about the best things in Brenchley and Matfield and the things that could be better. Groups were also asked to describe the village 15 years' from now in a short sentence.

Brenchley

The Best Things

- Memorial hall facilities including Matfield Hall
- Community spirit x3
- Post Office x2
- Butchers x2
- Church
- Doctors and dentist x4
- Film nights x2
- Country environment x3
- Clubs and society
- Low light pollution/dark skies x2
- View point castle point
- Matfield pond and fishing
- People are friendly x2
- Location – AONB x2
- Transport links x2
- Good internal
- Church
- Architecture x3
- Countryside x2
- Village green Matfield
- Footpaths x5
- Orchards – “Garden of England”
- Pubs x3
- “Microclimate” – warmer
- School x3
- Sports (tennis, football and cricket) x3
- Cinderhill Wood
- Village events – Brenchley weekend
- Clubs, events and societies
- Summer Fete
- Grays
- Proximity to Tunbridge wells London and rail links x2
- Matfield – largest village green in Kent
- The orchard trail in spring
- Village Halls x2
- Mobile Library

Things That Could Be Better

- Traffic Control x5
- Speeding x5
- Junction at top of Pixot hill dangerous x2
- Quality of footpaths / pavements x3
- Quality of roads x2
- Car parking
- Large lorries x3
- Doctors facilities – limited appointments
- Losing sense of community x3
- Parking x4
- Flight path to Gatwick
- More shops x3
- Internet speeds x3
- Mobile phone speed x4
- Better playground
- Improve sports facilities
- Lack of suitable housing for social, affordable sheltered housing x3
- Supporting local businesses
- More accessible green in Brenchley
- Tea shop in Matfield
- Lack of mixing between generations
- Loss of shops
- More community creativity – out of box together
- Surface water drainage
- Water resources/reservoir
- More green energy
- Bus services x3

“In 15 years from now...”

- *Still beautiful if you follow our above points*
- *Bigger with a loss of individual identity*
- *An inclusive community with strong ties and spirit*
- *Will encourage a broadband range of sustainable and affordable development and infrastructure to support.*
- *Brenchley and Matfield will be one – joined up with Pembury and gridlocked*
- *A village that is a good combination of modern facilities set in a compassionate way to the countryside*
- *Comfortable as a living community in its regional context – not fighting for identity – sustainable*
- *Different urban possible conglomeration and kept identity”*

Matfield

The Best Things

- Village green and pond x8
- Open space x3
- Footpaths x2
- AONB
- Sports clubs x3
- Children fishing
- Bus services
- Dr and dentist x3
- Film nights
- Nearby to hospital x2
- Coffee mornings
- Horticultural society and history society
- Butchers x2
- Shops x2
- Post Office
- Amenity rubbish collection
- Community spirit x6
- Elderly community and activities
- Proximity to Tunbridge Wells/London x3
- Community activities and weekends x2
- “Readycall” – needs clarification
- Friendliness x2
- Farming – crops and fruit of all kinds
- Trees and wildlife
- Rural environment x2
- Architecture and listed buildings x5
- Walking
- Attractive and quintessentially English x2
- Grays
- Village hall x2
- Schools x2
- Pubs, cafes and restaurants x4
- Churches
- Summer Fete and community events
- Local produce
- Cinderhill
- Brenchley Wood

Things That Could Be Better

- Traffic speed x9
- Traffic volume x3
- Large lorries x3
- More young people
- Pavements/ability to walk between villages x6
- Broadband speed x2
- lighting
- Public transport x3
- Affordable housing
- School drop off
- Fly tipping
- Reliable and more shops x6
- Café x2
- Quality of pavements and roads x5
- Mobile signal
- Sewage management
- Water pressure
- Oil stolen
- Lack of local policing
- Litter/fly tipping
- Play area x2
- Activities for teenagers
- Starter homes
- Expensive housing
- Downsizing x2
- More local businesses
- Clean energy
- Signage and information about facilities
- Lack of turnover of housing
- Greater integration
- Brenchley village hall
- More groups for teenagers
- Parking x2
- Astroturf for sports
- Gym/health club
- Roundabout at Kippings Cross
- More accessible areas for riders and walkers – too dangerous to ride on roads

“In 15 years from now...”

- *The quintessential rural Kentish village which has modernized and enlarged sympathetically*
- *A vibrant community, a self-sufficient village that people still want to visit and aspire to live in*
- *Thriving village community of young and old and still in AONB*
- *One larger village – more coordinated*
- *Either thriving or dead depending. They will be bigger for more people.*
- *Recognisable as separate villages*
- *Part of an urban metropolis or part of Paddock Wood. Overrun by heavy traffic. Overrun by commuters to detriment of community. Aging community will be even older. Danger of facilities not serving community. Will it maintain AONB?*