

Leatherhead



Leatherhead, centrally placed within Surrey, is a successful business centre, historic market town and gateway to the beautiful Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The mainly pedestrianised town centre is a safe place to shop, with a good mix of both independents and national retailers. In recent years a growing café culture has emerged with an excellent selection of coffee shops and relaxed eateries offering cuisine from around the world. Leatherhead was best known for the Thorndike Theatre, this tradition continues under its new name, 'The Theatre' Just out of the central shopping area, Leatherhead has a notable bridge which leads you to a place where the normally rare kingfisher and water vole are common place. The riverside walk leads you away from the town towards the south.

The Leatherhead Tomorrow Healthcheck Team completed their healthcheck report and Action Plan in 2006. During the course of the following year the team chose to incorporate, becoming the Leatherhead Area Partnership Ltd. This partnership includes members from both tiers of local government (District and County) the Chamber of Commerce, various Residents Associations, Community associations, the Towns Centre Forum and local business men.

The Leatherhead SEEDA Small Rural Towns Programme in Leatherhead has focused on improving access in and around the town.

The aims of the project are:

- To put in place a series of access improvements including signage and an interpretative board to inform both residents and visitors about the attractions of the town and River Mole.
- To improve the bus infrastructure along a well used bus corridor to Guildford To support local businesses

- To carry out a research study to explore the viability of a Social Enterprise being set up to help disadvantaged residents back into employment.

Significant progress has been made other projects identified in the healthcheck:

- Mole Valley Credit Union, in association with Guildford and Woking, will be launched shortly.
- The Leatherhead Residents Association continues to grow its membership cover of the town.
- Increased parking capacity is available in the Station Road and Randalls Road/Bull Hill car parks.
- Attractive illustrated town maps have been installed in these two car parks. [Click here for a picture.](#)
- Landscaping and facilities have been improved in the Red House Grounds and King George V Gardens.
- A Sunday rail service now runs to Guildford.
- Improvements have been made at the three railway stations
- Imminent approval (hopefully) is to be given for the skateboard park in Ashted
- The arrival of the Ashted & Leatherhead Local has answered the need for a community magazine.

Leatherhead is in Mole Valley www.molevalley.gov.uk

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