

Our goal for a 21st century Andover focuses on creating better 'life opportunities' for everyone who wants them. Indeed, our sincere hope is that, as a result of the hard work that it will take to transform the town, many more of us, young and old, will want to grab these opportunities for the sheer pleasure and personal fulfilment that they can bring.

What we mean by 'life opportunities' is really very broad indeed. It can mean joining a drama group or a walking club. It can mean returning to education for the joy of learning something that has always interested you, or to improve your employment prospects. It might just mean being healthier through a better diet or exercise. The possibilities are endless, but in our future Andover there really is a chance for all of us to live a full life if we want to.

To achieve this goal, our challenge for Andover must surely be to make it fit for purpose for the 21st century.

So we must build. Not just new buildings like theatres and cinemas but we must also build our belief that we deserve a better Andover and we are going to work hard to get it.

ANDOVER IN THE 21ST CENTURY



"As a small independent retailer, I have noticed a new positive spirit in Andover, with an optimism that has been missing for a number of years. Andover has its own individual identity and the challenge is to maintain this, whilst at the same time laying foundations for a brighter future when, once again, people will be proud to say they live in Andover."

LINDA LAWES,
CHIC INTERIEUR

"Andover has developed over the last few years for the better, with its newly enhanced High Street which offers an excellent stage for events/community groups. What it does need is a department store to encourage more shoppers to the town. However, the 'market town' image is attractive and can be built upon."

CAROLINE HICKS,
ASSISTANT TO THE TOWN CENTRE MANAGER

IT'S OUR TIME FOR 21ST CENTURY EDUCATION

We want to see a brand new further education college in the heart of Andover built on the Cricklade site - a landmark building that provides the inspiration for academic and vocational excellence. This new college will work together with our primary and secondary schools and build on their specialisations. It will forge links with the town's businesses, sports clubs and arts bodies. Andover will be making an unshakable commitment to ensure that education, skills training and adult learning are at the heart of our future - only the best is good enough for the people of Andover.

IT'S OUR TIME FOR 21ST CENTURY ENTERPRISE

The town provides jobs for over 25,000 people so supporting local enterprise is important too. Andover already hosts several large headquarter companies including HSA (and parent company Simplyhealth), Stannah Lifts and Stairlifts, the DLO and Twinings and is home to a wide range of businesses as well as some exciting entrepreneurial activity, such as Basepoint.

There are some strong 'business clusters' to build on such as food and drink, warehousing & distribution, logistics, medical equipment and automotive services and we want to bring new skills into the town, new skills to support business growth and create the high quality employment opportunities we need.

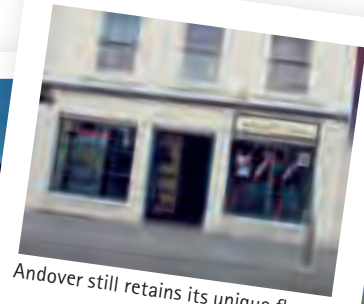
To that end, the former Andover Airfield is already being converted into a business park and will offer a range of office, industrial and storage facilities for local and incoming enterprises. The Andover Industrial Estates Regeneration Project will also oversee the successful transformation of redundant land and buildings at Walworth Industrial Estate into a nationally significant, state-of-the-art site for 21st century business development.



Basepoint - Andover's new enterprise zone



Great new retailing is coming to Andover



Andover still retains its unique flavour



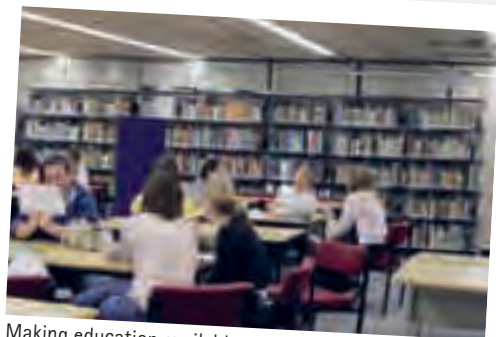
New sports opportunities for all

IT'S OUR TIME FOR 21ST CENTURY LEISURE

Over the next few years we will create a vibrant, high quality shopping centre with a broader range of retail opportunities that will really put Andover on the map. We need more shops and department stores and more 'distinctive customer choice' to act as a magnet for residents and visitors alike. To help things move along, there will be a regular programme of markets, fairs, festivals and events to attract people into the newly pedestrianised areas of the town. Our plans for a strengthened evening economy include more outlets for food and drink, new signage and lighting, and enhanced footpath and cycle links between the bus and railway stations. We are also looking to develop residential accommodation, a hotel and restaurants at Ford Cottage and Shepherds Spring linking the town centre with a retail and leisure hub at Enham Arch.

Exciting projects include the refurbishment of the Guildhall, the opening of a brand new four screen cinema and the amazing new 'Lights' theatre. We are going to have a town centre that can entertain all the family in safety and with easy access for everyone.

These new facilities are an important expression of the vitality of Andover as a lively and distinctive location in which to live, work and do business and to help us all keep on top of the programme of events taking place around the town, we will of course involve the local media. To give things an extra boost, an Andover radio station will launch shortly.



Making education available to all
Photo courtesy of Cricklade College

IT'S OUR TIME FOR 21ST CENTURY SPORT & HEALTH

As a part of our healthier future it is really important that there are more opportunities in sport, to take part and to excel. Andover boasts an impressive range of sports clubs and we will be encouraging more links with our schools and work places so that more of us have the opportunity to participate in anything from archery to rugby to tennis and swimming. If we actively encourage more sports participation in our children by doing some ourselves, we stand a far greater chance of success.

Our plans for enhancing our sporting capabilities are in the very early stages of development but we have engaged with the sports clubs to form a first all-club initiative, the Andover Sports Fair which is programmed for 2007. We hope this will become an annual festival of sport in the town with opportunities for people to try new sports and activities that they may not have previously experienced.

Sport will be an integral part in our campaign to make Andover a healthier place to live and will work alongside many other initiatives. For example, as a part of the Healthy Schools initiative, we are already working with school Head Teachers and Governors to ensure that Jamie Oliver inspired meals are offered in all Andover schools over the next year and sustained well into the future. We also want to remove all sugared drinks and sweet machines, replacing them with a healthy alternative for our children.

As obesity and diabetes reach record levels in adults and children alike, more help is being made available from our medical community in the form of outreach clinics and healthy eating advice programmes. Consideration is also being given to creating a family friendly Wellness Centre in the middle of town.