

VISION FOR CLAYGATE

1. Vision

Claygate is an attractive village with a distinctive character and a strong sense of community and identity. Surrounded by woodland and open countryside, with easy access to London, it is a place where people aspire to live and are reluctant to leave.

Claygate is a safe, inclusive, and caring community, with strong participation in voluntary activity and local initiatives that support the health and wellbeing of all residents.

The village has two complementary centres:

- **The Parade** – tree-lined, with independent shops and cafés
- **The Old Village** – with its historic High Street and village green

Together, these centres support a thriving, sustainable local economy and provide welcoming places to meet, socialise, and connect.

The village benefits from a mix of low-density historic and contemporary housing. Future development will respect and reinforce this character by:

- Following the **Elmbridge Design Code and Claygate Village Design Statement**
- Respecting prevailing building heights and rooflines
- Prioritising smaller homes and a diverse mix of housing, including affordable provision
- **Protecting the Green Belt** surrounding Claygate from inappropriate development



2. Thriving Claygate

2.1 Supporting Local Business and Vitality

- Establish a **Claygate Business Group** and collective Claygate website to support and promote local businesses
- Promote and support initiatives such as a **village market** to increase footfall and sustain the vitality of both village centres

2.2 Access, Movement and Connectivity

- Improve the **pedestrian** experience, particularly for people with reduced mobility or visual impairment (e.g. removing clutter, adding seating and crossings)
- Improve pedestrian access to **Claygate railway station**, including the footbridge
- Improve **public transport** provision, routes, and service levels
- Strengthen connectivity within the village and to other areas

2.3 Parking, Traffic and Wayfinding

- Improve **parking provision** and pricing for shoppers, residents, and commuters
 - Provide clear and consistent **signage and wayfinding** to car parks and local amenities
 - Reduce congestion in The Parade and surrounding streets
 - Improve overall **traffic management and road safety**
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3. Sustainable Living

3.1 Design and Development

- Promote high-quality design in line with the **Elmbridge Design Code** and **Claygate Village Design Statement**
- Ensure new developments demonstrate **sustainable building practices** and deliver biodiversity net gain

3.2 Housing

- Increase **housing diversity**, including:
 - Affordable homes
 - Smaller homes for younger people and those downsizing

3.3 Green Environment

- **Protect the Green Belt surrounding Claygate from inappropriate development**, ensuring the preservation of the village's setting, character, and access to open countryside
- Preserve and enhance Claygate's **green spaces**, including:
 - Recreation ground
 - Community gardens
 - Allotments
 - Village green
- Strengthen **green infrastructure links** to neighbouring areas
- Increase **planting** (trees, tubs, troughs, hanging baskets) to enhance the street scene and biodiversity

3.4 Sustainable Travel and Practices

- Promote **active travel** through improved walking and cycling routes and supporting infrastructure (e.g. bike racks)
 - Encourage sustainable and environmentally friendly practices among residents and local businesses
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4. Our Village Community

4.1 Health and Wellbeing

- Maintain and enhance accessible **health and wellbeing** facilities for residents of all ages
- Improve awareness of local health, wellbeing, and support services
- Encourage provision of **physical fitness facilities** within the village

4.2 Community Spaces and Inclusion

- Encourage and support the provision of accessible **community spaces** where people can meet, socialise, and participate in community life
- Support the provision of a **multi-purpose community hub**, including provision for those most in need

4.3 Families, Children and Young People

- Ensure sufficient **school places** for local families
- Provide high-quality, safe, and imaginative **play and recreational spaces** for children and young people

Ref: Claygate Village Association - *Claygate Residents' Survey 2024* and *Claygate: The Way Forward Report*