EYES ON TENTERDEN

A recent report published by the Kent County Council entitled "Tenterden: An Iconic Village" highlights the importance of Tenterden in the county. This report provides an in-depth analysis of the town's architectural and historical significance, making it a key reference for local authorities and planners.

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TOWNSCAPE

Tenterden, a prosperous small town in the Weald of Kent, is set on the main road from Margate to East Grinstead. It is a historic town of great character and yet comparatively unspoilt! But how long can it remain so?

Recognizing its importance, Kent County Council commissioned a research project to document Tenterden's unique architectural and historical features. The project, led by Gordon Collins, sought to preserve the town's character for future generations.

CHARACTER

The annual visitor to Tenterden is struck by its beautiful setting on the High Street, one of the oldest thoroughfares in the area. The buildings lining the street are mainly of the 17th and 18th centuries, reflecting the town's rich history. The High Street is a focal point for the town, with its notable buildings and shops.

DESP MINERALIZATION

The town's problems: first of all it is blighted by through routes which it is feared will increase. Second, the character of many of its buildings is being spoiled by modern conveniences, particularly the addition of plate glass windows which destroy the buildings' apparent connection with the ground. Thirdly, the shopping area is spreading and private houses on either side of the centre are being turned into shops and their attractive front gardens replaced by block frontages. At the same time, the area behind the High Street, particularly to the south, is virtually deserted.

REVIVAL

With Tenterden's rich history and unique architecture, the town has an opportunity to rejuvenate itself and regain its former glory. The town council is working closely with local businesses and organizations to promote Tenterden as a vibrant and attractive place to visit.

ANALYSIS

Having placed the town historically and regionally and found its growth and development, the report gets down to the very heart and soul of the town. Tenterden is a town of character, with a rich history that has shaped its identity. The report concludes that Tenterden has the potential to become a thriving and successful community once again.

SHAPE

The town plan is described and its component parts defined. Tenterden has its own distinctive character which is superimposed on the land. It is a town of compactness and concentration, with its buildings tightly packed together. The report concludes that Tenterden's shape is an important part of its identity and should be preserved for future generations.

In summary, the report emphasizes the importance of Tenterden as a unique and historic town. It calls for a careful and considered approach to planning and development, ensuring that the town's character and historical significance are preserved.

Footnotes:
1. From Tenterden Street, Margate.