

From: Iain Bright [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 July 2015 14:28
To: Jeni Jackson; [REDACTED]
Subject: Release of Green Belt Land: Pyrford: Upshot Lane development

Dear Jeni and Jonathan,

Please accept my apologies for writing to you both together, however I felt it important enough to warrant such a measure.

I am writing about the proposal by Woking Borough Council to change the status of previously designated Green Belt land to construct c.423 dwellings on the outskirts of Pyrford (either side of Upshot Lane)

My wife and I, both in our mid thirties and recently married, moved to Pyrford in April this year from London. Our desire was to escape the dense world of suburbia that is Greater London and move to somewhere that contains the perfect mix of a gentle residential nature combined with a semi-rural outlook. We both fell in love with Pyrford when we first saw it as it encapsulated our dream perfectly, allowing us to escape the stresses and strains of working in London with a quiet wholesome environment and an ideal place within which to raise a family (our next project). Since moving in we regularly go for a walk in the nearby fields and woods, down towards the old Pyrford village. As such it is with great heartfelt sadness that we learnt recently of plans to develop on these fields and convert them into high density housing sites. Not only will this put a strain on local resources but will doubtless negatively impact the local road infrastructure and damage the historic views from Pyrford towards the North Downs. It signals the start of what will become an ever growing encroachment of housing into the countryside of this borough. As you will know the NPPF states the main purpose of designating Green Belt land is to prevent the sprawl of large built up areas, prevent neighbouring towns merging, safeguard the countryside from encroachment, preserve the setting and special character of historic towns/villages and assist in urban regeneration by encouraging the redevelopment of brownfield sites.

This proposal flies in the face of all five of those stated purposes and, after the excitement of our recent move has left a rather bittersweet taste.

We totally understand that the borough needs to fulfil its house obligations over the next 25 years. However given that this land has been previously designated as Green Belt for a reason, it seems short-sighted to backtrack on this to create a new zone of suburbia spreading evermore from the boundaries of the M25. The proposal to do this also fails to reconcile with recent government statements regarding the importance of redevelopment of previously developed land in order to protect the Green Belt. I do not doubt there are plenty of brownfield site opportunities in the borough that could be utilised instead.

I implore you both on behalf of the residents of Pyrford and the wider area not to go ahead with these plans, to reconsider alternative locations and fulfil your housing obligations in a braver, more innovative and less damaging way.

Yours Sincerely,

Iain and Laura Bright

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