

WOKING 2027 - Consultation on Draft Site Allocations DPD

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Sent:31 July 2015 13:11

To: Planning Policy

Head of Planning
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I write to convey my objection to Woking Borough Council's proposals for meeting housing requirements in the period 2015-2040. In particular, I have specific concerns over the earmaking of the two fields in Pyrford (either side of Upshot Lane) for 423 new houses in the 2027 - 2040 timeframe.

I am prompted to write to you as I aware that the Council appears to have ignored the Pyrford Neighborhood Forum's two letters raising concerns about the Green Belt Review, with the Executive proceeding to take the decision to publish the DPD, apparently without reviewing valid representations.

Pyrford Village enjoys relatively unspoilt countryside and is a community where people want to live and much of this revolves around its pleasant environment. Pyrford is known for its well maintained historic buildings and conservation areas; the Heritage assets are highly valued nationally. There is every chance that removal of Green Belt status from the 2 fields identified could cause irreparable damage to these assets. Pyrford is already congested during the day around the central village area; the increase in population brought about by an additional 423 new houses, as well as the other factors associated with the increase (e.g. water and sewerage impact, requirement for schools and other infrastructure issues), is highly likely to increase traffic and congestion around the village. Safety is of paramount importance and the character of the village and its wide blend of facilities is something which once compromised cannot readily be re-created.

Of course it would be unrealistic if we were not to acknowledge that some change and development must occur, but there are other ways of achieving this that will protect the character of Pyrford; I would strongly recommend engagement with the Pyrford Neighborhood Forum.

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