

Worplesdon in the early morning would frighten any rush hour London Underground commuter. Prey Heath Road will become increasingly more dangerous as increased traffic to Worplesdon station must avoid people walking on a road without pavements or adequate lighting.

Not only will the wildlife in the developed areas be wiped out, but also there will be increased risk to wildlife in our protected Heaths (Smarts Heath and Prey Heath) due to the proximity of the development.

Within recent years the residents of Mayford and Hook Heath have, without the support of the Council fought and won their case in the High Court for the protection of the Green Belt in these same areas. It is regrettable that this time residents should have to object to such similar plans now being proposed by their own Council. Proposals to densely populate an area that has no suitable infrastructure; no school places; little to no public transport at evenings and weekends; no shops and such narrow roads that even today road accidents (such as broken car mirrors; cars forced off roads etc.etc) are daily occurrences in Saunders Lane with the junction at Blackhorse Rd and surrounding area a notorious, even fatal blackspot. Neighbourhood Watch volunteers in 2014 regularly reported speeds in excess of 40mph and often +50mph at all times of the day in Saunders Lane to the police.

Site Reference: GB7 (Ten Acre Farm, Smarts Heath Road)

I also strongly object to the proposal to increase the number of Traveller Pitches on this land. Mayford already provides a major contribution towards the Traveller Community. There is no justification for further expansion in Mayford. Currently, Woking's Traveller sites are heavily concentrated in one part of the Borough – Ten Acre Farm itself in Mayford already provides for travellers while Hatchington, Burdenshott Road is one mile from Ten Acre Farm and Brookwood Lye which is only three miles from Ten Acre Farm.

Additionally, Ten Acre farm is adjacent to Smarts Heath Common, an SSSI, used by residents of Mayford for leisure purposes. Any increase in the present Traveller site of five caravans at 10 Acre Farm would decrease the visual amenity and character of the area and also increase risk to wildlife due to increased number of domestic animals in close proximity.

Over the years successive Planning Inspectors have refused applications on this site because they reduce the openness of a Green Belt area.

Site Reference: GB10 (Land to the north east of Saunders Lane, between Saunders Lane and Hook Hill Lane) GB11 (Land to the north west of Saunders Lane)

My strongest objection of all refers specifically to the land surrounding the Mayford Village Hall. At recent public meetings the Woking representatives claimed Woking Council had no personal interest in these areas of land as they did not own any of the land. This is, I believe, simply not true and Mayford residents were misled as to the ownership of the land.

Some years ago the large field surrounding the Village Hall came up for sale. As the then Chair of the Village Hall Trustees I wrote to the Council asking them to buy this field for recreational purposes. Memory suggests that £15,000 was the cost, but this would need to be confirmed from a search of the archives. The Council did buy this land, advising the Trustees

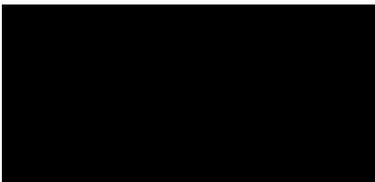
it would remain land for recreational purposes, and then shortly after built the child's playground which is still in use and a football field adjacent to the Village Hall. This has remained the position to the present day. It is obvious that if this is the case Woking Council would benefit hugely should the green Belt proposal be adopted.

I would suggest that misleading the Mayford Society and Residents, unwittingly or not, as to the true ownership of the land needs to be corrected and that this should be done by Woking Council publicly advising the residents of their personal interest in the land and **extending the discussion period** to allow residents to reconsider their position knowing the true position on land ownership.

For many years now Woking Council has at times allowed planning applications more in keeping with “Comic Cuts” or “Looney Tunes than any responsible local government. Who can forget just a few very costly examples of building and then demolishing a bridge in Victoria Way; a huge gate at Jubilee Square and a giant canopy outside Woking Station, neither of which serves any useful purpose; a ‘Telly Tubby’ type house in Brookwood where much of the living accommodation was below the level of the adjacent canal; even moving a bandstand to the park in 2014 whilst ensuring it is completed in time for winter? But this proposal to build up to 500 homes in an area with no suitable roads; no shops; little or no public transport; no school places and no prospect of improvements to any of these problems could perhaps become the most costly and irresponsible example yet of a Council failing to meet the needs of its current and future electorate.

Please also refer to the response by the Mayford Village Society who I am happy also to represent my views

Yours sincerely,

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L J Caffrey