

Green Belt Release - GB5

David Cottle

Sent: 24 July 2015 16:47

To: Planning Policy

Cc: Cllr John Bond

Dear Sir

I must protest in the strongest possible terms regarding the proposal to "develop" the area designated as GB5 in the Woking plan. This entire area is inappropriate for development of **any** sort.

Local unspoilt countryside is at a premium and has been steadily eroded over the 35 or so years that we have lived in Byfleet - principle challenges were the M25 construction and the subsequent conversion of unspoilt countryside into the Wisley Golf Course (another green "desert" that destroyed much natural wildlife habitat and added to the plethora of golf courses in the area).

Unspoilt countryside is essential for the physical, spiritual and mental wellbeing of the existing local community as well as providing the key physical break between built up areas - exactly what the "Green Belt" is supposed to do. Furthermore, local infrastructure already fails to meet local needs. For example, local roads are heavily congested and many are in a very poor state of repair. Similarly medical facilities are inaccessible unless one has car access to West Byfleet or beyond. Additional local housing and the associated people/traffic will put an intolerable additional burden on local infrastructure.

Additional development along the lines proposed will diminish the quality of life for local residents, and will impact current house values in a negative way. I doubt Woking has made provision for the financial recompense they will need to pay local residents for the destruction of a natural local amenity!(I would refer you to the sums that had to be paid out when the M25 was built).

I fully appreciate the need for more housing in the borough - in fact it is essential. However, that housing **must** be built closer to central Woking where it can be supported and not in the surrounding small towns and villages that simply cannot accommodate the additional burden. Perhaps take a look at the areas bordered by the A245 the A320 and Carlton Road? It's close to the town centre and associated amenities.

Yours Sincerely

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