

The West House

Beech Hill
Mayford
Woking,
Surrey
GU22 0SB

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29 July 2015

Planning Policy Team
Woking Borough Council
Civic Offices
Gloucester Square
Woking
Surrey
GU21 6YL

Dear Sirs,

Re: Woking 2027 DPD Consultation

I am responding to the DPD consultation as a resident and home owner in Mayford.

I have been a resident of Mayford for some 28 years and have been made aware of the Woking 2027 planning proposals that will impact Mayford. My comments are not specific to any of your documents, however I will refer to the specific site references that I am concerned about:

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

I strongly object to the proposal to increase the number of Traveller Pitches on this land.

At present, Woking's Traveller sites are concentrated in one part of the Borough: Hatchington, Burdenshott Road (one mile from Ten Acre Farm), Ten Acre Farm, Mayford, and Brookwood Lye (three miles from Ten Acre Farm). Mayford already provides a major contribution towards the Traveller Community. There is no justification for further expansion in Mayford.

In addition, 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 References:

GB8 (Nursery land adjacent to Egley Road)

GB9 (Woking Garden Centre, Egley Road)

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)

GB14 (Land adjacent to Hook Hill Lane, Hook Heath)

I strongly object to the proposal for housing on all of the above sites. The housing will fill in any green space between Mayford and Woking, thereby turning Mayford into a suburb of Woking and increasing greatly the risk of merging of Woking and Guildford – the whole purpose of the Green Belt. There appears to have been no consideration for preserving Mayford as a separate settlement to Woking, nor the impact on the character of the Village.

There also appears to have been no consideration to the impact on Mayford's infrastructure that the increased population will result in. More people mean more cars and more strain on the transport infrastructure. I note that there are no plans to upgrade the roads (some of which have no pavements) or railway bridges (which are all single lane) nor robust solutions to deal with the existing traffic problems on Egley Road.

Houses cannot just be built in areas that have no supporting infrastructure – there will be gridlock. Prey Heath Road will become very dangerous as increased traffic to Worplesdon station will be weaving around people walking on the road (as there are no pavements).

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.

I would also re-state the following points regarding national policy, which clearly show that there can be no justification for destroying the Green Belt in this area:

National Planning Policy Factors:

- National Policy states that Green Belt boundaries should only be altered in “exceptional circumstances” – this has not been proved by Woking Council, especially as Policy clearly states that “housing need – including for Traveller sites – does not justify the harm done to the Green Belt by inappropriate development.”
- No evidence (independently verified) has been produced to demonstrate that Woking Council has exhausted Brownfield sites for development in its Plan
- The Green Belt Review incorrectly dismissed the Green Belt Purpose “To preserve the setting and special character of historic towns” stating that “Woking is not considered to be a town that has a particularly strong historical character” – however Mayford does have a strong history and is mentioned in the Domesday Book.
- Green Belt land in Mayford is fundamental to the physical separation of Woking, Mayford and Guildford – this is incorrectly classified only as “important” in the Green Belt Review
- There is only two miles between the Mayford roundabout and Slyfield, which results in a high risk of coalescence between Woking and Guildford should Mayford develop further

Please reconsider your plans - what is currently planned will have a devastating impact to Mayford as a Village. Mayford is unique in the UK and is mentioned in the Domesday Book

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

Yours sincerely,

Ms F J Ekins