

Woking 2027

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Sent: 16 July 2015 22:03

To: Planning Policy

Cc: [REDACTED]

Mr & Mrs M Hart
Archers.
Hook Hill Lane.
Mayford.
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GU220PS

12 July 2015

Regarding: Woking 2027 DPD Consultation.

We have been residents of St Johns and Mayford since 1990. Since that time we have witnessed the relentless growth of the town and the surrounding parishes. We are fully aware of the pressure of population and the continued need to increase the amount of housing stock. This obviously has a severe impact on the local services and infrastructure. We feel that Woking has now reached the point where it can no longer sustain further redevelopment. It is very hard to put a value on the Green Belt, but we feel it is essential to maintain the current mix of urban area and countryside.

We fully understand that the local council are under pressure from central government and from ambitious developers. We realise that any complaints about the proposals from the established local residents will sound like 'NIMBY's' trying to protect their own interests and maintain their own comfortable lifestyles at the expense of others in need of housing. We would make the point that Woking is home to Goldsworth Park, once considered to be the largest housing estate in Europe. Since it was built, there has been massive redevelopment of the area around Brookwood. There has been estates built along the Bisley road. There has been a huge number of additional flats built along Victoria way in central Woking and the 3 large developments of flats adjacent to the south side of the station. There is currently a large development being built next to the football ground and another estate being built in Westfield. In response to any claims that Woking needs to help the current housing crisis, the answer should surely be that Woking has well and truly done its bit.

The other observation that we have plainly seen over the years is that, the more houses you build the more schools, doctors and local facilities you need. You then need more local employment and more local services which attracts more people to the town who need more houses and services.....The expansion of the town becomes completely self perpetuating. There will never be a time when Woking can provide enough housing for those who want to live here. This is a good time to remind the councillors who hold the future of the town and its surrounding areas in their hands that they are making a decision which is not reversible. Once the beautiful Surrey landscape has been concreted over, that is it, a decision made forever. The council should also remember that they have been voted into power to represent the interests and wishes of the local population. They do not represent central government and should not be swayed by the financial rewards gleaned from having a larger council tax paying housing base.

Site Ref:GB7 (Ten acre farm,Smarts Heath Road)

I strongly object to increasing the number of traveller pitches on this land. Mayford already provides a contribution to the needs of the traveller community. The word traveller site suggests an area for people to come and go as they maintain the nomadic lifestyle.

This proposal is for permanent pitches for ongoing occupation and is therefore no different to building on Green Belt land. This is next to an area that has recently been renovated back to Heathland to provide essential natural habitat for wildlife and a valuable local amenity for the local nature loving community.

Site Ref: GB8 (Nursery land adjacent to Egley Road.
GB9 (Woking Garden Centre, Egley Road.

We have mixed feelings about the proposed school on this site. The land is essential to maintain a break between Woking town centre and Mayford. The local residents are keen to maintain a sense of local identity and not to be swallowed into the town centre.

We have had three children educated locally and are therefore acutely aware of the shortage of school places. We therefore broadly accept the need for another local school. However, anyone who has endured the misery of a journey along the Egley road in the morning will be horrified by the implications of hundreds of more cars dropping off and picking up school children. The A320 is the major link for the local inhabitants to get to the M25. Currently the journey through Mayford and into Woking is seriously congested.

It is difficult to imagine how horrendous it will be when the school is completed. A significant proportion of the traffic will divert up the very narrow Hook Hill Lane and clog up the residential areas of Hook Heath and Wych Hill.

We are very strongly apposed to any additional housing being put on to that site. The reasons have been outlined above.

Woking has taken huge steps to accommodate the wishes of central government and help at a time of crisis. But enough is enough. The council need to grasp the strength of feeling amongst the residents of Mayford. Please stand firm against the constant requests to build, build, build. And become an effective voice of those who elected the council into power.

Please also refer to the response by the Mayford Village Society who we are happy to represent our views.

Yours sincerely

Matthew & Sandra Hart.