

Unacceptable Development on Green Belt Land

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Sent: 27 July 2015 20:52

To: Planning Policy

I am writing in relation to the proposed development for housing to be built on green belt land in Byfleet, West Byfleet and Pyrford. I am not against new houses per se, but green belt land must be preserved. Other land and brownfield properties are available, and I really don't understand how building on green belt can benefit anyone.

I strongly object to building in these areas, for the following reasons:

Byfleet:

Byfleet is already a crowded village, not in terms of green area that surrounds it – this is the appeal of living here – but all roads into the village are narrow, particularly where there are older cottage-style properties which mean that residents have to park on the roads surrounding the housing.

The new estates are overcrowded for the same reasons; there are too many cars for the number of properties.

The roads are not sufficient for the existing number of houses, residents and cars.

The infrastructure must be improved for the benefit of the existing residents before any further development could be acceptable.

Currently, any problems on the M25 or A3 lead to Byfleet becoming gridlocked – again an indication that the infrastructure is not adequate to support more development, traffic, cars.

Byfleet currently does not have a secondary school, which means children have to use buses, walk along already busy, dangerous roads, or rely on lifts from their parents. Places at the first and middle schools are already limited, because since The Manor School was closed, more housing has been built in the area. I don't believe either of the existing schools could cope with more expansion without this having a detrimental effect on the children's play areas – Byfleet is classed as a village, but it is feeling less and less like one.

Neither does Byfleet currently have any health care facilities. This means that people have to travel to health facilities in the surrounding areas, putting more cars on already overcrowded roads.

You may also be aware that these overcrowded, busy roads flood whenever there is rain, impacting on drivers and making walking along any of these pavements thoroughly unpleasant.

In addition, much of the village was badly affected by flooding in the winter of 2013/2014. Further development will exacerbate this situation. The River Wey requires dredging; the drains under the roads require upgrading, in order that excess water can be dealt with.

Come on Woking Borough Council – do you really think Byfleet can cope with more properties

West Byfleet:

Any development in West Byfleet must be considered carefully. The roads are already busy, and become gridlocked very frequently. There are frequent accidents at the traffic lights. Any developments must not directly lead onto Parvis Road – this would be madness.

I will continue to follow your ludicrous decisions with interest, and hope that you consider the impact on the local residents carefully before any developments are planned.

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