

From: Neil Newton

Sent: 14 July 2015 15:13:13

To: Jeni Jackson

Subject: Change of Green Belt Status (sites GB12 and GB13), development and the effect on Pyrford Village

Dear Jeni,

I am a Pyrford resident and I am writing to register my objection to the potential change of Green Belt status of sites GB12 and GB13 and the proposed development of some 433 dwellings on these sites.

For your records my personal details are as follows:

Name: Neil Newton

Address: 57 Hamilton Avenue, Pyrford, Woking, Surrey GU22 8RU

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Our Village is a community where people want to live and much of this is a result of the pleasant environment. I accept we may have a national housing crisis, which can only be resolved by building, but we also have a responsibility to choose the right sites to build upon.

Whilst we all have to live with change, I feel very strongly about the degree and nature of change being proposed and feel it will have a massive adverse affect on the local Pyrford and surrounding Woking, Ripley and West Byfleet communities.

One of the beauties of living in Pyrford is its uniqueness and its relatively unspoilt surrounding countryside. We live on the outskirts of Woking with the fast rail links to London and benefit from feeling as though we are living in a village in the heart of the English countryside.

Pyrford is unique in the Borough for its well maintained historic buildings and conservation areas.

I believe removal of Green Belt status from field sites GB12 and GB13 would could cause irreparable damage to these assets.

Furthermore, I believe the selection of sites GB12 and GB13 for release from Green Belt status to have been done in an inconsistent manner.

Sites GB12 and GB13 are consistently assessed in the Green Belt Review as not being suitable for release.

Site GB13 was considered in the Green Belt Review as being particularly sensitive due to the open, exposed, nature of the Site and it was described as an 'Escarpment and Rising Ground of Landscape Importance'. Loss of these landscape features would have a significant impact on the rural character of the village.

Development on the proposed scale would absolutely ruin the rural setting which currently enhances the village.

In addition to the potential loss of character, there are an even more significant number of safety, infrastructure and wildlife issues to be considered.

SAFETY -

How can the area sustain the additional volume of traffic resulting from 433 homes?

The roads are narrow and congested at the moment. The traffic around the Pyrford CoE school is to be avoided at 8:30 and 15:00 hours.

Parking for school parents is a serious problem and all of these traffic related issues increase concern over the safety of the children coming and going to school.

INFRASTRUCTURE -

How can the local schools, nurseries, classes and halls cope with these increases in numbers?

The local school is not designed to cope with the children from another 433 homes, the pre-school groups, care groups, nursery and after school classes and halls are struggling now. Where will children go and play when they are not at school?

Are the sewerage systems, gas, water and electricity supplies designed to cope with the additional volumes?

I very much doubt it because this would not have been foreseen !

What will the impact be on local traffic and roads?

Has any traffic modelling been done to identify the impact in Ripley, Pyrford Common Road, The Old Woking Road, Cold Harbour Road ?

This can only result in more queuing at these bottlenecks!

Will the new Newark bridges and lights cope with the increased cars or merely cause even longer queues for those coming and going to work in and around the Woking area?

What will be the cost of extensive road widening/rebuilding/resurfacing to the council tax payer?

NATURE AND WILDLIFE -

.... and finally what effect will development on this scale have on the local wildlife, tree loss, birds and protected species like badgers?

We have all noticed the steady reduction of numbers of small birds and bees in our gardens.

Further stripping of hedgerows and established trees can only add to these already decreasing numbers.

Think again, Woking BC, there has to be a better solution for the future.

Regards,

Neil Newton