

From: Lorraine Walton [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 July 2015 21:41
To: Jeni Jackson
Subject: Woking Borough Council Public Consultation - Upshot Lane Development
Dear Ms Jackson

I am writing to register my objection to the proposed release of Green Belt land in Pyrford, on either side of Upshot Lane.

This shall have a hugely negative impact on village life in Pyrford. What makes living in Pyrford very special is the fact that it really feels like a village where life is not too pressurised. The addition of 423 new houses cannot fail but make Pyrford a much less enjoyable place to live by hugely increasing the pressure on roads and schools.

In addition, through the church, school and local clubs, one feels like one knows a large proportion of the other residents and that we belong to a real community. Such a huge growth in numbers of households shall destroy this feature of the village. The organic growth of numbers in the village is to be welcomed, but what is proposed is an increase in households so great that it shall fundamentally change the nature of the village and wreck our community.

I was introduced to Pyrford through my husband's family, and we chose to move to Pyrford precisely due to the close-knit community here. This development shall not only destroy green fields, but also the very reason that my family and I live here.

One reads all the time about the fact that the greenbelt is often not that green and includes much land that one might assume is brownfield. That is clearly not the case in this instance, where developers shall be destroying fields that are a lovely feature of the views from Pyrford. As a family we love to explore the woods and lanes around the back of the old Rowley Bristow hospital, so these fields mean a lot to us, and we would hate to see them destroyed.

I understand that the five stated purposes of greenbelt land, and why these fields meet these conditions, are:

1. To check the unrestricted sprawl of large built up areas - these fields provide a natural buffer to the sprawl that already extends from Woking town centre, through Maybury and prevents this extending into Pyrford.
2. To prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another - as above the loss of these fields shall eliminate a natural barrier that achieves just this.
3. To assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment - fields such as these provide the little countryside that residents in Woking and its surrounding villages can hope to enjoy on their doorstep. Develop these fields and we shall soon be in the depressing situation where we shall need to drive to experience anything like a countryside.
4. To preserve the setting and special character of historic towns - with Pyrford mentioned in Anglo Saxon chronicles and the Domesday book, and featuring both a prehistoric standing stone and an early 12th century church, it certainly has history,

and as described above, I feel a very special character, which the destruction of these fields threatens.

5. To assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land - the proposed development could hardly fail more clearly on this score. This proposal is to concrete over lovely fields that are much appreciated by the local community.

To summarise, the proposed developments are contrary to government policy as well as being objectionable to existing local residents.

I suspect that my views shall be reflected by a large proportion of Pyrford's residents and I trust that you shall give them appropriate consideration.

Kind regards

Lorraine Parsons
43 Wexfenne Gardens
Pyrford
Woking
Surrey
GU22 8TX