

FW: Objection: Release of Green Belt land in Pyrford

Jeni Jackson

Sent: 13 July 2015 16:46

To: Planning Policy

Jeni Jackson BSc (Hons) MRTPI | Head of Planning Services |

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From: James Southerland [REDACTED]

Sent: 11 July 2015 10:22

To: Jeni Jackson

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Objection: Release of Green Belt land in Pyrford

Dear Ms Jackson,

As residents of Pyrford I am writing on behalf of myself and my wife to object to Woking Borough Council's (WBC) proposal to release Green Belt land in Pyrford for an additional 400+ dwellings. The two areas I refer to are;

1. Pyrford, Lovelace Drive area
2. Pyrford, Aviary Road area

WBC has ignored the Pyrford Neighbourhood Forum's (PNF) two letters raising concerns about the Green Belt Review and their adviser's attempts to address the Borough Executive were repulsed with the Executive proceeding to take the decision to publish the Development Plan Document (DPD) apparently without reviewing valid representations. The PNF has objected to the Borough's approach as have their advisers.

It is unacceptable that WBC has substantially departed from recommendations concerning Pyrford from its own independent advisers, Peter Brett Associates. It is unacceptable that WBC chose to defer any action upon these recommendations and proceeded to approve a DPD over which there is a big question mark around Pyrford issues.

It is imperative to retain Pyrford's charm and character and to maintain the natural landscape and views as well as footpaths. Pyrford is unique in Woking Borough in enjoying its relatively unspoilt countryside and we believe this forms an asset for the entire Borough.

Pyrford is unique in the Borough for its well maintained historic buildings and conservation areas. Heritage assets are highly valued nationally. I am unconvinced that removal of Green Belt status from our two threatened fields wouldn't cause irreparable damage to these assets.

Pyrford is already congested during the day around the central village area. Imposition of over 400 new houses would increase congestion and perhaps result in unacceptable gridlock.

Equally, we are not satisfied with the lack of WBC focus upon likely major housing developments just over the WBC border in Guildford Borough EG Wisley Airfield and two others. It is also unacceptable to potentially impose such a huge traffic increase from the

south passing through Pyrford on its way to West Byfleet Station and Retail Centre.

Furthermore, Pyrford Primary School is about to be re-built and the number of pupils will increase to meet current demand. Over 400 new houses will throw up a massive need for school places and nursery and pre-school facilities are at capacity at present.

Our village is a community where people want to live and much of this revolves about the pleasant environment. Safety is of paramount importance and the character of the village and its wide blend of facilities is something which once destroyed cannot readily be re-created.

It would be unrealistic if we were not to concede that some change and development must occur. but I disagree that a wholesale change to the character of the village by the threat of over 400 new houses is the solution.

Thank you for taking time to read this mail and we urge you and WBC to strongly reconsider its proposals to release our Green Belt land.

yours sincerely,
James Southerland
Ellen Kolby Hansen

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GU22 8UZ

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