

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 July 2015 19:03:37
To: Jeni Jackson
Subject: 400+ new houses for pyrford

Dear Ms Jackson,

I have read about the proposals for additional houses to be built in and around the Pyrford and West Byfleet areas and have thought about them from as wide a perspective as I am able. Notwithstanding the issues surrounding urban development in, and on the fringes of, greenbelt land - which is where most of the arguments are focused against such construction - I have greater concerns about the surrounding road/rail/school/Doctor surgeries/Shopping infrastructures which are expected to accommodate all those additional families who will occupy those properties.

I have lived in this area for over thirty years and in that time changes to those infrastructures have barely kept pace with the demands placed on them. The road system is very much at a standstill during the rush hours and school start and end times. The parking around the schools at these times exacerbate the congestion as even more classes are being added yearly to each school. Doctor's and surgery appointments at the West Byfleet Health Centre now have to be made days in advance while patient parking is difficult if not impossible at all times of the day. The railway network is barely able to cope with the huge numbers of people who use it in the rush hour nor will the railway parking be able to support many more cars than occupy it currently during the working week. The parking at the Waitrose store in West Byfleet is often at capacity throughout the day. None of these facilities are improving, quite the contrary they are getting worse. This is the baseline that the local infrastructure starts with before any further demands are placed on it that additional housing will bring. Surely, this needs to be sorted before further population demands are placed on it?

What would be refreshing is if the local councils worked together to design a plan (which works!) for improvements to the infrastructure to support this greater demand before any further plans are set in place on the additional housing requirement. The way this has been approached in the past is to build the houses first and then decide that the local infrastructure doesn't have the space or funding to be improved thus creating even more havoc for the increased population in the area. This way of thinking has to stop. The only serious way of tackling population growth is to build new towns (in the green belt if necessary) with a well designed infrastructure constructed at the same time and with access to major rail and road networks. The small minded approach of cramming in a few more houses (or hundreds in this case) here and there just does not work because the infrastructure support will always lag behind the timeplan and indeed will never catch up to make life easier and more comfortable than it is at present. That is not investing in a rosy future for the increasing population of the UK it is just a recipe for disaster as the situation goes from bad to worse.

Has anyone done any calculations to establish, for the additional housing in the borough, the increased number of school age children, working adults, cars on the road (in the rush hours), demand for rail travel, parking spaces, GPs, practice nurses, etc and added it to the current figures (if known!) and then predicted the consequences? As a MOD Principal Analyst for a large part of my career I would have considered writing computer models to establish the consequences of these increases on the current infrastructure to see if the plans are supportable or sustainable or in what way the infrastructure needs to be improved to deal with future problems - and costed it. Has anyone done this? If not, why not?

My apologies for the ramble, but unless officials who make these decisions examine the bigger picture to sort out problems before they arise then they are going to make things a lot worse in the future. Government and council officials have short lifespans in their posts but local families go on forever.

Carl Stead,
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