

17, Magdalen Close,
Byfleet, West Byfleet,
Surrey,
KT14 7SS

31st July 2015

Planning Policy Team,
Woking Borough Council,
Civic Offices,
Gloucester Square,
Woking,
GU21 6YL

Ref: Site Allocations Development Plan Document & Green Belt Release

Dear Sir/Madam,

Having attended the public meeting held in Byfleet on 16th July and reviewed the details via your website and the Byfleet edition of The Surrey Advertiser (17th July issue), I am writing to add my own objection to the above document which is currently in Public Consultation.

First of all, I wish to say that I fully endorse the comprehensive comments and objections submitted by Councillor John Bond in his letter of 27th July (copy attached) and trust that his position as one of our local councillors and also his leading role with the local Residents' Association, are recognised as carrying additional weight in this argument as he obviously also represents the views of many other Byfleet residents. His letter clearly highlights many important points and areas of specific concern which I believe need further consideration by you and your colleagues.

Secondly, while I recognise the fact that our borough and indeed the rest of Surrey and much of SE England suffer from serious issues including traffic congestion, overdevelopment, affordable housing shortage and I also understand that central government requires action to be taken to address the housing issue in particular, I am not convinced that releasing parts of the Green Belt is currently justified. I need hardly remind you that Green Belt policy in this country dates back nearly 70 years and its main aim is to restrict urban growth and to enable existing communities to retain open space between themselves and neighbouring settlements. Developing Green Belt land for anything other than agricultural, forestry or recreational use is generally prohibited except in exceptional circumstances and, in the case of all of the areas of Woking Borough proposed in your DPD, I am not convinced that this is justified. I also understand that Green Belt land in Woking Borough has rarely if ever been released for housing schemes before and, if carried out, this would therefore set a significant and dangerous precedent for the future of our remaining Green Belt.

Thirdly, as your officers who attended local public meetings will know very well, there is widespread concern among the majority of local residents about related issues of flood risk, infrastructure, traffic congestion and the types of new housing required locally (affordable accommodation for local people should be the chief priority - especially those seeking to buy their first property - rather than expensive executive homes). Although I have only lived in Byfleet for nine years, I believe such major concerns deserve greater recognition by Woking Borough Council and should therefore be

fully addressed before any major new housing schemes are imposed on an already overburdened existing community.

Yours faithfully,

Julian C Temple

(Ref JCT/Byfleet/Green Belt letter (31.07.15).doc