

Removal of the two Pyrford fields, either side of Upshott Lane from the Green Belt, in order to build 423 new houses.

I object very strongly to the proposed removal from the green belt of the two fields on either side of Upshot Lane, for the following reasons.

1. When there was a proposal to develop these fields, some years ago, the Ministry Inspector rejected it, citing the significant bank down to the fields along the southern side of Aviary Road gardens as a natural break to a village, which if allowed to develop to the south would risk spreading to engulf the hamlet of original Pyrford village and in time would link with Ripley, endangering the nature of both villages.
2. The infrastructure of Pyrford simply cannot cope with such an enormous increase in the population, which effectively equates to adding double the number of those currently living in the Lovelace Drive/Hamilton Avenue estate. The primary school provision is already inadequate and the roads are very congested and their surfaces progressively deteriorating.
3. The field to the east of Upshot Lane is particularly unsuitable and would require a major new drainage system and sewer just to cope with the surface water, not to mention sewage from the houses. Since the hedges were removed in the interests of simpler mechanised farming run-off from the field is such that Sandy Lane becomes a river and even with the existing gullies cleared will run down into and across Floyds Lane. With the inevitable increase in hard surface this run-off problem would be greatly exacerbated and put Floyds Lane and Longs Close under threat. On a number of occasions in the past this excess water has damaged both electricity and telephone services, both of which are already overdue for upgrading.
4. An increase in population of this magnitude would alter the whole character of the area, which is locally notable for its cohesive community.
5. There are many other sites, properly within the borough where additional housing would not result in such a serious impact on a community. The south of London is already overburdened with an increase in population and rather than embarking on the permanent destruction of the natural environment the Council should take more effective steps to 'protect' its existing ratepayers.

Should it be decided, in spite of the very significant local objections, to proceed with this change to the Green Belt, may I respectfully ask that special measures be taken to preserve the three mature oak trees in the eastern field, that are the last remnant of an ancient field boundary that has been steadily eroded over the years since the other hedges in this area were grubbed out.

Julian G.H. Walker CB,  
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