

Protect Clandon

Part of the Clandon Society

An Open letter to all Residents in East & West Clandon

Dear all

Thank you for your efforts in getting letters out to Councillors, MPs and MEPs ahead of the extraordinary meeting of Guildford Borough Council tomorrow (Thursday) evening - we've had great feedback and excellent letters raising new and valid points!

NEXT STEPS:

1. PUSH FOR MORE LETTERS.

If you have not had the time to write and send letters yet please do not despair, and certainly please do not give up!

Simply send the following (or preferably an adaption of the following) as an email to all councillors:

Dear Councillor

On Thursday you will be asked to vote to go ahead with the public consultation of the proposed Guildford Plan.

This Plan, in its current form, is fundamentally flawed because:

- It is based on an inflated and inaccurate prediction for required house building (652 per year) which is also completely at odds with the figures for other boroughs in the area. Requests from your Council's own Scrutiny Committee to review this figure have been effectively ignored.

- Since the Council's Executive Committee put forward the Plan (which, as you are aware, includes massive building on Green Belt land), the Government has announced measures to ensure new dwellings are built on brownfield, rather than Green Belt.

The Communities Secretary Eric Pickles has stated we must preserve our 'green and pleasant land' and the Chancellor George Osborne has announced new planning rules that will enable councils like Guildford to fast-track development of brownfield sites for residential housing. Please see:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/10899117/Pickles-keep-Britain-a-green-and-pleasant-land.html>

- The current Plan includes proposals to build a major secondary school on floodplain Green Belt land in the village of West Clandon which will destroy the nature of both West and East Clandon villages and which fails completely to follow National and Borough guidelines for appropriate development in this settlement.

- Changes have been made to the current Plan since it was approved for your vote at the Executive Committee meeting on 4 June 2014 so it is not the same document.

For these reasons, and others you will have received from residents. I would urge you to vote against allowing the Plan as it currently stands to go to public consultation and instead to request a proper and independent review.

Far from delaying the Plan - as will be claimed by certain councillors - this review will actually speed up the process as it should provide a sustainable and workable Plan which can be supported by the vast majority of Guildford Borough residents, rather than fought over and dragged through long appeals and legal procedures if it goes ahead for consultation in its current form.

Surrey is already the most overcrowded county in Britain, has the highest Gross Value Added (GVA) - the measure of the value of goods and services produced in an area - per head of any county or core city (other than the capital) and, by Surrey County Council's own analysis, the demand for more housing in our county is from 'inbound migration'. Please see:

http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0019/527050/Economic-overview-slides.Feb-2013.pdf

So these houses are not in the main for residents and their children, but rather for those simply wishing to move here.

The current Plan seems to be designed to satisfy developers and the council's apparent desire to qualify for development grants rather than the borough's residents, your voters, who elect the Council and pay the salaries of its officers to represent their best interests.

As an elected representative of the people of the borough of Guildford please can you vote as your electorate wish you to vote to review the current Plan, and not as other councillors may wish you to vote.

I, along with other residents, will be attending the council meeting or, if unable to get into the council chamber, we will be watching the live streaming and look forward to supporting you in reflecting our concerns and wishes.

Sincerely

(Name and address)

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Attached please find a single list of all email addresses for Guildford Borough Councillors which you can simply copy and paste into the 'To' box for your email.

Please do not forget to complete the 'Subject' box with something relevant (eg Extraordinary Council Meeting - Your Vote, or Your Vote on Guildford Plan etc) before clicking 'Send'.

Please can you get these out TODAY OR TOMORROW MORNING AHEAD OF THE MEETING if you have not been able to send any letters so far.

2. ATTENDING THE COUNCIL MEETING TOMORROW EVENING

It is important that we show our interest and concern by attending the extraordinary meeting of the council tomorrow Thursday 19 June at 7pm at Millmead House in person if at all possible.

The council chamber has room for about 75 to 100 members of the public so let's fill them up!

It is not our intention to be disruptive at this stage - it will be all too easy for certain councillors to dismiss us as a rowdy rabble if we get a bit out of hand, especially in the chamber itself - and members of the public can be ejected from the council chamber simply for interrupting, and the internet streaming can be suspended

We will be organising demonstrations further into the process if the council goes ahead.

For tomorrow's meeting we need to come across as concerned, but calm and reasonable.

We suggest you get down to the council offices in good time - there is parking outside the Britannia and, of course, down past the Yvonne Arnaud with the bridge behind the theatre enabling access to Millmead.

Sharing cars would probably be a sensible route and please see if there are others who would like to attend around you. Especially those not on this email list.

We trust this is helpful. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to email cbarrass@aol.com, timanderson@tsapartners.co.uk, or davefassom@stellarlimited.com .

We look forward to seeing you there tomorrow evening.

With our best wishes

The Protect Clandon Campaign - part of The Clandon Society, the residents' association for East and West Clandon