

The West Clandon Parish Council is meeting tomorrow (Wednesday 11 June) at 8pm in the Village Hall and it would be great to have you there to show your support for our councillors.

The WCPC is taking on Guildford Borough Council's (GBC) plans to destroy the Green Belt around us, and to create danger, urbanisation and environmental disaster in the heart of our village with a massive secondary school on Green Belt land on Cuckoo Farm. At best, even if the sites are not used for many years, there will be an ongoing 'planning blight' of potential development in our village with obvious negative consequences. Even now we understand house sales in the village are failing to complete because of the uncertainty this planning blight is causing.

Unprecedented Threat To West Clandon

The impact of the GBC's proposals to build 2,500 houses on Gosden Farm, and the school with buildings over acres of low lying flood plain with at least 1,000 pupils and staff, is probably the biggest threat to West Clandon in our village's 1,000 year history.

Please understand, this will not be a village school

It will be a large secondary school along the lines of the George Abbot (2,000 pupils alone) and the Howard of Effingham (1,500 pupils alone) with all the infrastructure, buildings, parking and traffic movements that it will bring, almost doubling the population of the village at a stroke and destroying West Clandon as we know it.

Questionable Figures

GBC's proposal for building on Gosden Farm is based on highly questionable figures for the numbers of new houses GBC claims need to be built over the coming years (in short this was 322, as agreed by the High Court, and is now 652 according to GBC).

GBC's advisors in this are GL Hearn who act for...developers. As their website states: "We act for many of the leading developers and are currently advising on schemes totalling over 3m sq ft. We have a team of over 100 people directly involved in the development sector."

GBC's Motive

The motive for GBC's councillors and planning staff to build on Green Belt, rather than the acres of brownfield sites in and around Guildford, seems to be lucrative development grants paid by central government.

These may help GBC to balance its books in the immediate future, but will leave an appalling legacy for our children and future generations that can never be wound back.

These same 'required' housing figures are, of course, being used to justify the plans for the school

Our Borough Councillors Ignored

Our Borough councillors have also demanded that GBC's claimed number of houses required should be properly reviewed.

But they, and the council's own Scrutiny Committee led by Terence Patrick, have been ignored by the powerful Executive Committee which currently runs the Council and which has decided to press on regardless.

Unsafe Site

But even if the housing figures were correct (and they are not!), West Clandon is not the right place to put a major secondary school if it is going to serve the thousands of houses GBC wants to build around Guildford, including at Gosden Farm and Wisley.

Anyone who has tried to get out onto The Street in the morning or evening will know how dangerous it is already, let alone with the massive increase in traffic, pedestrians and, inevitably, accidents that will be brought about by GBC's proposals.

Letter to Guildford Council from West Clandon Parish Council

The WCPC has already written to Guildford Borough Council to oppose the school for well thought out reasons - please see:

<http://www.westclandon.org.uk/Parish%20Council%20objects%20to%20School%20Proposals.pdf>

In addition members of the East Clandon Parish Council have met with GBC representatives and oppose the plans for the school on similar grounds. So we are not alone!

Please Attend the Meeting Tomorrow

If you could attend the West Clandon Parish Council meeting tomorrow, Wednesday, at 8pm in the Village Hall you will show support for our councillors, and enable us all to plan what we can do to support them further in the battle with Guildford Borough Council that looms ahead.

Thank you, we look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely

The Protect Clandon Campaign, part of the Clandon Society