

Crookham Village Neighbourhood Plan 2016 – 2032 Additional Evidence Representation

To whom it may concern

I am a resident of [REDACTED] I moved from the Midlands to Crookham in the late 1970's. I would like to make comment regards the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Village has a wonderful character, typical of a country village, developed slowly over hundreds of years from 1400/1500's up to current time. The village has established narrow roads and footpaths into the surrounding countryside such that the surrounding environment can be both enjoyed and preserved.

I lead a local group of walkers called Walking for Health and we use these rights of way in and around the village without adversely affecting the countryside whilst enjoying the surrounding wildlife habitats. It saddens me that many of the local fields and natural environments have already been converted into commercialised housing estates, with the loss of the countryside that I and generations of my family have enjoyed such that the previously distinct boundary with surrounding towns are being merged.

The new Neighbourhood Plan and Policy NE01 aims to protect this structure and relationship of the village with established access into the countryside; protecting countryside and the village with founded walks to areas such as the Basingstoke Canal.

The Village is also a conservation area and this means that any development should respect and conserve the existing buildings, which are architecturally of individual nature. The Plan should guide this, such that the village continues to grow in a natural way in the same way it has evolved over centuries maintaining the natural spaces and gaps of the village where the countryside can also be preserved.

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