

Crookham Village Neighbourhood Plan - Gaps Consultation

Phillip du Gay <[REDACTED]>

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To: Neighbourhood Planning <neighbourhoodplanning@hart.gov.uk>

Dear Sir,

Crookham Village Strategic Gaps

We are writing in support of the concept of the strategic gaps around Crookham Village. We believe these are important for the following reasons:-

1. Crookham Village has its own separate, linear identity, and includes a number of historic, grade II listed properties. Any incursion into the strategic gaps will inevitably have an adverse impact upon this identity.
2. They will prevent the creation of one sprawling conurbation - the merger of Crookham Village with Fleet and Church Crookham
3. The local landscape is unique in character (including the River Hart floodplain, ancient woodlands) and would be seriously and adversely affected by any infill. These spaces are also largely currently undisturbed (but scenic) areas providing a haven for wildlife. Our view of the impact on the SANG land provided for other developments is that it has completely sanitised these areas.
4. We believe development on the Cross Farm part of the strategic gap represents a flood risk to the village and the grade II properties which border the proposed development

We believe the following also supports the strategic gaps policy:-

1. Without such gaps, the village is effectively lost -they form a very important part of the setting of the village.
2. We regularly use all the footpaths leading down to the Basingstoke Canal - a vital green corridor.
3. The gaps around the village have already been severely eroded by earlier developments. The remaining strategic gaps are really the last chance to save the village settings, particularly the conservation areas.
4. The landscape in the strategic gaps genuinely does provide a haven for wildlife including kingfishers which we occasionally see on the Hart flood plain

Phil & Sally du Gay

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19th November 2019

