

Crookham Village Neighbourhood Plan - Gaps Consultation

Ian Johnson [REDACTED]

Wed 20/11/2019 10:37

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

Re: Appendix 3 supporting evidence for the whole Policy NE01 Preserving the Gap Between Settlements.

Name and Address: Ian Johnson, [REDACTED]

Re above Consultation:

In recent years and particularly at this moment the gap between the village and Fleet has been greatly reduced yet this gap has been shown in various consultations to be vital to the village and designated in local plans; also cited as a reason to object to further high density developments or infilling. The high density development currently underway on Grove Farm to the north will have enormous detrimental impact on the separation of the village from Fleet's urban sprawl which encroaches, and damage the natural habitat. Grove Farm is now such a mess that I cannot walk across to Netherhouse Moor playground with the grandchildren as it is too distressing. The gap will thereby reduce to only 200m. Villagers strongly opposed this development which went ahead despite their views. It is vital that we now act to protect the remaining buffer to the north and all land south of The Street.

With developments at Netherhouse Moor, Zebon Copse, Watery Lane, Grove Farm, Edenbrook, Pale Lane as well as the Elvetham Heath massive housing estate the village is now almost encircled and in great danger of losing its ancient, unique village character and separate identity which has always been distinct from modern day Church Crookham and Fleet. The village is also suffering from the massive increase in traffic movements which are now constant and for which local roads are unsuitable. Therefore it is now more important than ever to preserve what remains of the green gap and local landscape and this is a high priority for myself and most village residents, as well as new residents. As a dog walker I regularly use the local footpaths and the enjoyment of those over Grove Farm has already been diminished by new housing. There are also plans submitted for Cross Farm to the south of Crookham Village, this is not in the local plan and I do not understand why it hasn't been rejected by the planning officer. This will be a further encroachment on the green space around the village. Any further development will seriously impact the character and rural aesthetic of the village and severely reduce the amount and quality of the outdoor recreational areas which currently remain.

In recent years villagers have produced a Neighborhood Plan in order to preserve what is left of this village and to protect it from being swamped by new build housing estates for which there is no infrastructure in the village and which compromises the rural aesthetic. The plan shows how vital it is that we preserve the green gaps around the village which is designated a conservation area with its open spaces, ancient houses, and beautiful views. Local environmentalists have already demonstrated the diversity of wildlife and stressed the importance of protecting the many species of birds, deer and plants to be found in the village's environs.

I strongly object to this ancient farming settlement becoming part of a massive urban conurbation and hope that these views will be taken into serious consideration in any further planning applications regarding Crookham Village.

Ian Johnson