

Crookham Village Neighbourhood Plan - Gaps Consultation

Elizabeth Acheson [REDACTED]

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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:

Presented on behalf of Mrs Ann ACHESON of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

As you will be aware, The Street falls squarely in the Crookham Village Gap as currently configured. Our family has lived in Crookham Village and Dogmersfield for over 40 years and has seen both small and large scale developments which have gradually reduced the open spaces and caused small settlements to be overwhelmed by an influx of traffic and people with which the settlement's infrastructure was never designed to cope.

Crookham Village has worked hard to retain its character and community cohesion. This is in large part because of the existence of the Gaps currently in place. These Gaps provide not only a visual point of reference to show the move from urban to rural but also serve a vital function to allow quick and easy access to the countryside for all. They also allow children and adults alike to enjoy sights and smells which would have been commonplace 50 years ago but which are becoming increasingly rare as building encroaches on the rural landscape and farming ceases to be economic.

This is essential not only for those who live in the community but also for those living in proximity who rely on the areas for walking, running, cycling etc. Wildlife too finds refuge in the wide diversity of environments and the Gaps provide essential corridors between otherwise isolated pockets. Any public benefit which might accrue From change to the Gaps would be significantly outweighed by the harm to the immediate and wider community.

In addition to their role as "green lung", the areas, particularly to the south of The Street, are vital for their abilities to absorb both carbon dioxide and water. As the climate emergency gathers pace, this will come ever more to the fore. We need to nurture these areas not destroy them.

I trust that all parties will see the benefits of retaining the Gaps as proposed.