

Statement from the Chairs of East & West Horsley Parish Councils regarding Major Developments in the Horsleys

We met with Sir Paul Beresford on 17th July to discuss the impact of large-scale developments in the Villages and the impact they were having on daily living.

Subsequently, we decided to make a direct approach to the Leader of Guildford Borough Council, Cllr Joss Bigmore, to express firsthand our deep concern on the cumulative effect of the scale and timing of such major development in the Horsleys, the apparent total disregard for the policies in the adopted Neighbourhood Plans addressing design, character and density and the lack of adequate infrastructure to support them. We met him on 18th August and a constructive dialogue followed. The briefing note we used for the discussion may be found on our websites.

We were encouraged by his familiarity of the area and knowledge of the extent of the development underway. He also seemed well aware of the strains upon the immediate infrastructure. However, the technical and legal constraints presented not just by planning legislation but also Government policy and landowners/developers rights mean that mitigation as we might wish will probably be difficult to achieve. We noted that GBC are due to announce a "road map" on their Local Plan review during September which might offer some direction over any potential options going forward.

With our emphasis on the immediate impact of planning applications either approved or in the pipeline and our fervent view to prevent urbanization of our Villages and to have the lack of infrastructure addressed, Cllr Bigmore agreed to hold internal discussions and to meet us again with one of the Executive Directors in early September. We accepted this.

Cllr Elaine Best
Chairman
West Horsley Parish Council

Cllr Robert Taylor
Chairman
East Horsley Parish Council

19th August, 2021