

Pyrford Green Belt Action Group



15 November 2019

Dear Mr Banks

I am contacting you in my role as chair of the Pyrford Green Belt Action Group (PAG). PAG is a community based group formed to prevent development on the Green Belt in Pyrford, initially concerning the threatened fields either side of Upshot Lane (the Pyrford Fields). The group has demonstrably widespread community support. Amongst other things, in September 2016 PAG submitted a paper-based petition to Woking BC with over 700 signatures. Then, in December 2018, during the Regulation 19 consultation, we delivered to Woking BC a petition to “Save the Pyrford Green Belt” with 923 signatures. Information about PAG, including its constitution, can be accessed at the following web address: <https://pyrfordactiongroup.wordpress.com/>

Woking BC had previously considered removing the Pyrford Fields from Green Belt. The fields have previously (not in the current SADPD) been referred to by Woking BC as site GB12 or site SHLAAPYR003 (being the land alongside Upshot Lane to the rear of Lovelace Drive) and site GB13 or site SHLAAPYR004 (being the land alongside Upshot Lane to the rear of Aviary Road). However, PAG was pleased to see that Woking BC no longer proposes removing the Pyrford Fields from Green Belt and they are not included within the current SADPD. We believe this is clearly the correct conclusion and that it makes a significant contribution to the soundness of the SADPD. Almost without exception all consultation responses concerning Pyrford have echoed and supported this view.

I note that the Inspector refers to sites such as the Pyrford Fields as “*omission sites*” and has provided guidance that he is not “*required at this stage to consider the merits of such sites*” and they will not form the basis of discussions at the hearing sessions. I also note the Inspector’s guidance that “*During the progress of the Examination, should a matter of the SADPD’s soundness indicate that further sites need to be considered, it will be for the Council to determine which sites should be examined*”. Therefore, I am requesting that in the unlikely event that further sites need to be considered and it is determined that the Pyrford Fields should be examined, or that if for any other reasons or by any other means the matter of the Pyrford Fields is opened-up during the Examination, PAG would then be allowed to participate in the hearings in order to represent the strongly held views of our community supporters.

I hope that the conditional nature of this request is clear and that on that basis the request is accepted by the Inspector. PAG fully recognises that should the matter of the Pyrford Fields not arise during the Examination then our participation would not be applicable. If you have any queries regarding this request or any other matter concerning PAG, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

John Carolin,
Chair, Pyrford Green Belt Action Group