

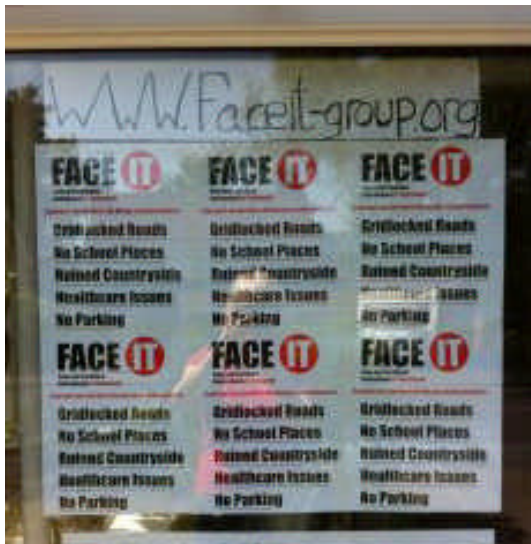
## NEWS RELEASE

Date: 6 June 2012

### Local Residents Band Together To Save Fleet and Crookham Environment

Local people know, and surveys have shown, that Hart is one of the best places in England to live. The reasons quoted are often the local facilities, good employment opportunities, and the largely rural nature of the area, with easy accessibility to local countryside from its towns. Fleet is situated close to several nature reserves and many people live within walking distance, or a short bus, car or cycle ride away from the beautiful Hampshire countryside.

However in the last 30 years Fleet has rather grown out of its boots. One housing development after another has been bolted on without much real improvement in the infrastructure to support them. Some of the local infrastructure that our families need is now getting seriously overloaded. For example school places are increasingly hard to come by, especially where large areas of housing have been developed without an appropriate increase in school places. Some children are already told they cannot be found local places and they have to be bussed to Aldershot or travel to other towns.



There is some strong feeling, particularly in the West Fleet and Crookham Village areas which will be most affected by those sites proposed for further development in the short term. So a group of residents have started a campaign for more consultation when Hart develops its plan for how many new houses need to be built and where they will go. One resident has even put campaign posters on her front door and is arranging a coffee morning to join up with others with an interest in making a difference.

The group feels that, so far, our communities which will be affected have not been properly informed and consulted. They want to see the full and balanced arguments for and against all the potential

development sites in the areas around Fleet and not just for those in the currently proposed Local Development Framework.

The group is engaging with the local community through a series of leaflet drops, meetings, and the use of the web and social media. "Many of our most active members are local mums" said Wendy, a member of the group. "They realize what a threat to their local environment and a loss of amenity the proposed developments in the area represent." Many of the mums have grown up in the area and regularly use the local footpaths for walks. "Walking round a housing estate is not what we have in mind" said one resident. "We walk the footpaths nearly every day and regularly take the pleasant walk into the Hart Valley". New housing at 'Edenbrook' is already breaking out into open countryside

that was previously farmland. There is a new country park, but it is more of a dog-walking and barbecue area on wet land that was less suitable for housing.

Road capacities, health-care provision, playgrounds and even water supply need to be considered when making decisions on new housing development. The open spaces that make living in Fleet and its surrounding areas so popular need to be considered. If more new housing is built in the green gap between Fleet and its surrounding villages, then many people will no longer be able to walk and cycle into their local countryside (and will have to get into their cars) and the character of the place will change.

The group wants to be sure that any more housing in our area will be to support local needs and not to satisfy developers wishes or 'top down' Government targets. "We just want to be sure that our children can get places in good local schools that are not like large inner-city schools, that we can get better health care, with the doctor of our choice, and that our dangerous and over-crowded roads are not made even worse" say the residents.

Finally,

let's enjoy this



The beautiful and easily accesible countryside around Fleet

and not suffer more of this



New housing development unsympathetic to the local environment

If you have an interest in this topic you can find our more, follow all the latest news and articles and even watch videos explaining how the countryside is under threat at this website [www.faceit-group.org](http://www.faceit-group.org) . The group also has a presence on Facebook – why not ask to join, and join in the debate?

Ends

For further information contact [publicity@faceit-group.org](mailto:publicity@faceit-group.org)