

FACE

Fleet and Crookham
Environment **is Threatened**



20 April 2014.

FLEET SCHOOLS STRETCHED TO THE LIMIT ONCE AGAIN

Plans for even more new housing in West Fleet and Church Crookham have once again raised concerns amongst local parents about school places.

As many local parents find out where their children will be starting Infant and Junior school in September, a planned development of high density housing has been submitted to Hart District Council.

Martin Grant's proposed development in Watery Lane comprises 315 houses, space for a G.P. Surgery, shop and sports pitches. The developer has now removed the space for a school.

The chosen area is on the outer perimeter of Church Crookham on land behind Zebon Copse, some distance from the nearest Infants, Junior and Senior Schools. Current parents of children living in Zebon Copse often struggle to get their children into the nearest school and are faced with the inevitable situation of driving to and from schools, sometime with more than one child involving drives to multiple schools.

Add to this the fact that all new developments will be part of the Calthorpe Catchment for senior age children and the size of the problem can be seen. The outermost parts of Zebon Copse are over 1.7 miles from Calthorpe Park

Press Release

School. This proposed development is even further away meaning the majority of children would be driven to school putting pressure on already overused routes, especially Aldershot Road, Brandon Road, Gally Hill Road and The Street, Crookham Village. How will Malthouse Bridge over the canal at the end of Crookham Road, which over the years has been repaired multiple times, cope with the increased traffic?

"Liz Matravers, a local mother of two school-age children, said "This new development will totally fail to maintain, improve or provide for the needs of the existing population and those arising from new development in the provision of school spaces. The location of the development away from the schools will mean it's too far to walk and so we'll see heavy traffic pass through existing residential areas and settlements namely Brandon Road and Zebon Copse plus along unsuitable roads like The Street in Crookham Village. "

Local Group FACE-IT state:

The area has yet to see the full impact on schools from the new houses at QEB. Three local schools are expanding but will that be enough? Early indications are that the Calthorpe Park extension is unlikely to relieve the situation for senior school children. Spaces set aside for children on QEB are likely to be taken up by existing residents well before the site is finished leaving these children and children from outer areas like Ancells Farm and Pondtail at risk of being schooled outside their home town of Fleet.

Simply put, our schools CANNOT cope with MORE children.

A number of comments already received by Hart Council as part of the consultation on the Watery Lane development (14/00504/MAJOR) have also made clear

the residents views on the inappropriate location of the development.

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Note to Editors:

FACE IT is a local campaign group for the Fleet and Crookham areas of Hart with an increasing membership and profile. The group has been actively engaged in the planning process and has encouraged Hart to review and improve local plans for the benefit of the community and the environment.

The FACE IT group is campaigning for a better local development plan for Hart that provides full and balanced arguments for and against all the potential development sites in Hart and not just for those to the west of Fleet. A key aim of FACE IT is to make the critical information that needs to be considered for planning housing available and understandable to everyone so that they can actively influence local decision-makers.

The sheer number of homes potentially being proposed is also of concern including the plans to develop a further 315 homes at Watery Lane adjacent to Church Crookham, 450 homes at Grove Farm adjacent to Crookham Village and West Fleet, a further phase of 170 homes at the 'Edenbrook' development to the west of Fleet, development at the brownfield site of Tudgeys Nursery in Crookham Village, and a number of other smaller developments and 'garden-grabbing' schemes.

For further information contact publicity@faceit-group.org or socialmedia@faceit-group.org