



## Stand Up and Be Counted!!

Welcome to the second in a series of **STOP HARLOW NORTH** Newsletters. In the first, we explained how your local District Councillors are not opposing the development North of Harlow and that it is up to all of us to stand up and defend our villages, our towns and our way of life against unprecedented development. On the 3rd November, the East Herts District Plan entered its final phase before being submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. **We all have until 5pm on 15th December to respond.**

## 20,000+ Increase in Gilston Population

The plan includes 3,000 houses to be built in the Gilston Area on **Green Belt** land to the North of Harlow. The Council have been quite open in their ambition to increase this to **10,000 houses** and has already applied for Government assistance under the Garden Town initiative for funds to assist in realising this ambition.

### **THIS IS YOUR VERY LAST OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD.**

If the Council get the go ahead, the plan will become a reality and Gilston and Eastwick will get swallowed up in an urban sprawl equating in size to nearly three Sawbridgeworths - potentially another 20,000 or more people added to the local population.

## Council's Rogue Green Belt Policy

*"Green Belt land is extremely precious. Protecting the lungs around our cities is paramount for me. To support this view, the Conservative manifesto for the 2015 election committed the incoming Government to protecting the Green Belt."* David Cameron, June 2015

More recently, the incoming Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government said:

*"There will be no dilution whatever to the vital protections of the Green Belt...the Green Belt is absolutely sacrosanct"..."The government is committed to the strong protection and enhancement of Green Belt land. Within the Green Belt, most new building is inappropriate and should be refused planning permission except in very special circumstances."* Sajid Javid MP, July 2016

## Broken Promises

Unfortunately, your Council, acting on **YOUR** behalf is claiming “exceptional circumstances” and is acting in direct contradiction to the spirit of Government Policy. It is also acting in direct contradiction to its own manifesto commitment in 2010 which read as follows:

*“The Conservative group at East Herts remains firmly opposed to the proposals for the unsustainable and unwanted development north of Harlow in East Herts ... Conservatives will never let this happen”.*

It seems their definition of “never” is a few years and they are now determined to go against their own promises, against their own party, against the Government, against the advice of your elected representatives, Mark Prisk MP and County Councillor Roger Beeching.

On 7 June 2016, Brandon Lewis, the then Housing Minister wrote to his fellow MPs:

*“The Framework makes it clear .... that Green Belt boundaries should be adjusted only in exceptional circumstances, **through the Local Plan process and with the support of local people.** We have been repeatedly clear that demand for housing alone will not change Green Belt boundaries.”*

## Infrastructure Deficit

It is obvious to all of us that recent increases in the local population are already stretching the infrastructure to breaking point. Only a few weeks ago, our local Hospital was put in “special measures”. Parents cannot get their children into local schools, the roads are increasingly congested, it is standing room only on the trains at peak times, the sewage system is operating close to 100% capacity and our water pressure gets lower by the year despite above average rainfall. Please also remember that this proposed building in the Gilston Area is in parallel to a further 13,000 houses in the District – itself representing nearly a 25% increase in the population **BEFORE** any building in Eastwick and Gilston.

## Act Now

To show the plan does not have “local support”, it is absolutely essential that **everyone in every household** makes their objection known. By doing so, we aim to prove there is no local support which will in itself weaken the Council’s case. If enough people respond, it should enable the **STOP HARLOW NORTH CAMPAIGN** to get a seat at the Examination in Public and fight to get the development removed from the District Plan.

**ACT NOW before it is too late and register on [www.stopharlownorth.com](http://www.stopharlownorth.com)**

You can also comment directly on-line to the Council on the East Herts Consultation Portal, ([consult.eastherts.gov.uk/](http://consult.eastherts.gov.uk/)) by letter, or by email to [planningpolicy@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@eastherts.gov.uk). **You must include your name and address with your response for it to be recorded.** We recommend that you do comment on-line but please also register with [www.stopharlownorth.com](http://www.stopharlownorth.com) so that we can keep you up-to-date with developments and offer you further advice on how to respond and comment.



Finally, we will continue to post any newsworthy events on our Facebook page - STOP Harlow North Campaign. Please pay the page a visit and 'Like' us and follow us on Twitter - @stopharlownorth Don't worry if you don't use Facebook as we will continue to send e-newsletters.



We always need volunteers to help with leaflet delivery so please get in touch by return e-mail or contact your town /parish council if you want to assist in any way. Your representatives are: David Royle (Sawbridgeworth), Poppi Smith (Widford), Sam Clark (High Wych and Allen's Green), Spike Hughes (Eastwick and Gilston), Bernadette Dunthorne (Hunsdon).

If you cannot help in person or simply want to make a donation to the campaign please make cheques payable to 'STOP Harlow North' c/o The Treasurer, SHN Campaign, 94 Pye Corner, Gilston, Herts, CM20 2RD.

Please forward this newsletter to your friends and ask them to "Join Us" on our website or via Facebook or Twitter.

**STOP HARLOW NORTH CAMPAIGN**

**Unnecessary, Unsustainable and Undemocratic**

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