

CHAIRMAN'S NOTE

After more than fourteen years (my correspondence file with Welwyn Hatfield Council goes back to 2009), the Borough has an adopted Local Plan.

It was voted through at a special Council Meeting on 12th October last with many absentees and abstentions and only reluctant support from those voting in favour. Nobody likes it. It's not "local", and it is not much of a "plan" - given that it is driven more by numbers of dwellings to meet central government targets rather than by responding to the needs of the local community.

The Plan requires 15,200 dwellings to be built between 2016 and 2036. Of these, 3,218 have already been delivered, but the Council have only been able to identify sites for a further 9,343 dwellings, to be delivered by 2032/33. A review of the Plan to decide on sites for the remaining 1,800 dwellings must take place within three years.

That review will be taken in the context of housing need, national policy, and other relevant circumstances at the time. It will determine additional sites to be allocated to meet the balancing requirement and also provide an opportunity to examine the Plan's performance to that date. However, as the Plan makes clear, delivering the level of growth associated with the housing target of 15,200 dwellings, will necessitate development taking place on what is now Green Belt land.

So, this is only a respite, not the end.

In summary, between now and 2032/33, sites have been allocated for around 850 dwellings within our Parish:

- in Welham Green - 300, plus employment development at Marshmoor;
- in Brookmans Park - around 450 dwellings and a primary school; and
- in Little Heath - 98 dwellings.

All of these are Green Belt sites. Planning Applications have already been submitted for four of the sites and approvals given on two of them. The details can be checked on the Council's Local Plan website or on the Society's website.

The positive point is that the Council now has an adopted plan as required by law which allows it to take a firm stance against speculative development applications.

This time last year we were also awaiting the result of an appeal against the Council's refusal for development at land at Bradmore Way. In combination with the local residents' group and The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE Herts), we had taken part in opposing the appeal (as also had the Borough and Parish Councils). We were all delighted with the inspector's decision in the summer to refuse the appeal and uphold the importance of the Green Belt.

OUR MEMBERS

Since taking a dip over the pandemic period, we are delighted that our membership numbers have rebuilt to around one thousand local people. We are greatly heartened by the support from our members and thank them especially for their comments and responses during the lengthy consultation process of the Local Plan.

Please continue to support us. The Green Belt in our parish faces, not only the Local Plan revision process but also constant pressure for new building. And then there are the uncertainties of the forthcoming general election!

Please renew your subscription (or join us if you are not already a member) and, if you can, also join the CPRE Herts (<https://www.cpreherts.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-member/>) to support the struggle more widely in Hertfordshire.

We look forward to seeing you at the AGM on Monday 18th March

FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

AGM Monday 18th March 2024

Chaired by our Honorary President Gary Mabbutt, MBE

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 18th March 2024 at 8pm in the North Mymms Memorial Hall, 36 Station Road, Welham Green.

The formal notice of the meeting, agenda and financial statements are available on our website.

Guest speaker: Simon Marsh,
Planning and Policy Manager of Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust

Membership is Now Due for 2024

Make your voice heard by strengthening our membership by completing the form below or preferably by setting up an annual payment through our website at www.northmymmsgreenbelt.org.uk

With annual subscriptions only £1 per head, donations would be greatly appreciated to cover the extra costs of engaging professionals to help fight to protect the area we love.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL FORM

To: NMDGBS, c/o North Mymms Memorial Hall, 36 Station Road, Welham Green AL9 7PG

Please join or renew the annual subscription for member(s) of my family / household for the calendar year 2023.

Mr/Mrs/Ms Additional Family Members

Address

Town & Postcode

Email

By Online payment or Direct Debit at: www.northmymmsgreenbelt.org.uk

OR by Standing Order or Bank Transfer to: TSB Bank, Sort Code: 30-16-64, Account No: 00098459, Name: NMDGBS



Please tick box if paying by standing order and return form with your address and payment details)

Or Cheque (payable to NMDGBS) enclosed for £ being £ annual subscription at £1 per person
and/or £ voluntary contribution to funds.