

**To:**  
**All members of the**  
**Cabinet**

*Please reply to:*

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Date: 23 January 2020

## Supplementary Agenda

### **Cabinet - Wednesday, 29 January 2020**

Dear Councillor

I enclose statements from a further 5 petitions which have been received in response to the Local Plan Consultation, to be considered on the agenda for the Cabinet meeting to be held on Wednesday, 29 January 2020.

#### **4. Petition on the Local Plan**

**3 - 6**

##### **Cabinet member: Councillor I. J. Beardsmore**

The Council has received a further 5 petitions relating to 4 sites as follows:

Land between Old Charlton Road, Shepperton and the M3 - 280 signatories

Stratton Road, Sunbury – 534 signatories

Land adjacent to Windmill Gate Estate, Sunbury – 232 signatories

Land to the west of Town Lane Stanwell – 227 signatories

These petitions are referred to Cabinet for consideration and a response.

In accordance with Standing Order 16.4 in the Constitution, the options available to Cabinet are:

- (a) to take the action the petition requests; or
- (b) not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the debate; or
- (c) to note the petition and keep the matter under review.

**Spelthorne Borough Council, Council Offices, Knowle Green**

**Staines-upon-Thames TW18 1XB**

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Yours sincerely

Gillian Scott  
Committee Services

To the members of the Cabinet

Councillors:

I.T.E. Harvey (Leader)  
A.C. Harman (Deputy Leader)  
M.M. Attewell  
R.O. Barratt

I.J. Beardsmore  
A. Brar  
H. Harvey  
J. McIlroy

O. Rybinski  
J.R. Sexton

## **Further Petitions submitted in relation to the Local Plan**

### **Land between Old Charlton Road, Shepperton and the M3**

Local plan SHU005:

Staines Road Farm (Eastern Site), Laleham Road, Shepperton

#### **OBJECTIONS**

1. This proposed site is in a flood risk area.
2. The site is directly adjacent to Ash Link Nature Reserve, the only official Nature Reserve in the area. Building here will have a serious and damaging effect on local wildlife.
3. Access for Emergency Vehicles throughout Old Charlton Road is already problematic; 200 more houses would exacerbate this already dangerous situation.
4. Primary and Secondary schools in Shepperton are already oversubscribed; 200 more families would make the situation intolerable.
5. A further increase in local population would add further strain to the Shepperton Medical Centre.
6. Approximately 400 more vehicles requiring access to the area would have a more negative impact on an already congested area. This would mean more vehicles using the only access, the Crossroads traffic lights.
7. The fundamental aim of Green belt land is to prevent urban sprawl. Any proposed development of this particular land will create urban sprawl.

### **Stratton Road, Sunbury-on-Thames**

We the undersigned, object to the Stratton Road site losing its Green Belt status and being included in the Local Plan for a future housing development of 260 houses and should be removed immediately from the proposed site allocation for development. We support the Council in its continued efforts to agree a reduction in the annual housing figure. The Stratton Road site is unsuitable for development because: -

- Serious flooding risks will be accelerated in the surrounding area.
- The site already floods due to existing high water table and proximity to the Thames (Photographs attached showing existing flooding/standing water)
- Loss of Green Belt contradicts the Council's commitment to conserving and enhancing biodiversity.
- Loss of wildlife habitat.
- Residents in response to the Initial consultation in 2018, unequivocally opposed building on the Green Belt. The Council has ignored this.
- Loss of a "buffer" between M3 and existing housing. It is not "semi urban" as claimed by the Council.
- "Exceptional circumstances" do not apply to allow the Council to release this site. "Weakly performing" assessment by the

Council contradicts initial Arup Report. Helps to absorb pollution from Heathrow.

- An important environmental barrier to pollution from Charlton Road Eco Park. Will result in significant increase in traffic in already congested area.
- Endangers safety of school children, as several schools in the vicinity. Fire Risk given very limited access for Brigade services.
- Destruction of historical Roman Ditches.
- Added pressure on already overstretched public services (in particular GPs). The same reasoning applies for the Council excluding Kempton Park:-  
"Development would result in the loss of permeable surfaces and replacement of this with hardstanding would increase risk of surface water flooding".

### **Land adjacent to Windmill Gate Estate**

Spelthorne Council and Thames Water are planning to develop on the local existing Greenbelt land (owned by Thames Water) that is adjacent to Windmill Gate Estate with a view to developing a new, permanent Gypsy & Traveller site. The residents of both Windmill Gate estate and Windmill Close, are very concerned about the impact of the proposals on the environment, the loss of green space, increased noise and pollution, additional traffic, etc. that they have signed the enclosed petition (well over 200 signatures) calling on the Council leaders NOT to approve the 15-pitch site.

We urge the Spelthorne council local planning committee not to grant approvals to take the proposals for this site (Ref: LS1/006) forward into the local plans.

### **Land to the west of Town Lane, Stanwell**

For the reasons given below, We, the undersigned, want Spelthorne Council to: -Remove site SNI/015 to the West of Town Lane, Stanwell from its list of proposed site allocations and keep this land in Green Belt.

The proposed site is adjacent to Staines reservoir which has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (**SSSI**). It carries important wintering populations of tufted ducks, pochard, goosander and goldeneye. Settlement of a new community close to the reservoir will have a disruptive and detrimental impact on wildlife which is dependant on this reservoir.

Proposed use of this land will cause catastrophic damage to our environment, destroying wildlife on a permanent basis, when there are lots of unused areas in Spelthorne which have already been concreted over that could be used instead. Previously when we have raised the issue of the swarms of flies we get throughout the year, we have been told that there is nothing that can be done, as it is an area

for wildlife conservation. Why now cause damage to this same wildlife?

Proposed use would have a significant and harmful effect on openness through the site conflicting with the aims of national green belt planning policy. Taking away the grass and green area is damaging the environment in and around Stanwell. Once these areas have been covered in concrete there is no going back, and the green area is lost forever.

Caravan settlement on this open land will spoil views of the reservoir. From the road or neighbouring properties, the loss of open land would be significant. (Stage 3c - Visual Amenity). Creation of a gypsy site will result in permanent loss of Green Belt land.

### **Petition statement for the same site as above from Save Stanwell's Green Spaces**

This petition is to save the grass area on Town Lane where horses currently graze. The Council's proposal, which they feel should be accepted, is to place enough "plots" on this area for there to be 16 caravans/trailers, parking spaces for the vehicles and washing facilities. They have ignored the damage they will cause to our natural green areas. Removing our grass areas, destroying our wildlife and future wildlife which we cannot get back, causing division in our communities, adding to the already poorly maintained and congested roadways including an entrance and exit on to a bend on the main road which already has a high number of serious car crashes. When any concerns have been raised of the damage which will be caused to our local area by the clash of cultures, the Council has relied on "you can't discriminate" we do not want to discriminate, but we want to recognise the Travelling communities culture, which involves open fires, children playing outside, and outdoors type of work. It is also clearly proven in neighbouring Council's permanent Traveller Sites, that there is a vast amount of fly tipped rubbish in the areas around them, and it will be no different wherever the plots are placed in Spelthorne. So rather than cause a clash of cultures, we want the council to propose alternative land to be used, land already damaged by concrete, land which the travellers can use without causing a nuisance to neighbouring properties, land where they can follow their culture without constant complaints. In other areas where sites have been built, the local house prices have been dramatically affected by being close to the sites, the Council's behaviour with this proposal has been to neglect the obvious negatives this will cause to their present residents. The council have not taken any time to think about the long term consequences to both the travellers and the local community, they just want to tick a box right now. We believe the Traveller Community has a right to permanent homes, but we feel the Council need to look for areas which are not on Green Belt sites. Jordans Close which is directly beside the proposed site, is a Cul-de-sac, this means anyone entering or exiting the Close will be forced to drive past the site, any children playing outside, will either be playing near the very busy Town Lane, or in the Road At Jordans Close, clearly this will cause conflict. Stanwell's local shops, especially, has seen an increase in crime and Anti Social Behaviour over the past years, adding a Traveller site to the area

is going to lead to more crime and ASB, this is not discrimination it is facts, which the council are well aware of, and is proven by statistics in other boroughs.