

Crookham Village Neighbourhood Plan - Gaps Consultation

Mike Teale [REDACTED]

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To: Neighbourhood Planning <neighbourhoodplanning@hart.gov.uk>

Re: Appendix 3 supporting evidence for the whole Policy NE01 Preserving the Gap Between Settlements.

Name and Address: Mike Teale, [REDACTED]

I have lived in Crookham Village since 1955 and seen much change in that time, especially the gradual spread of development outwards from Fleet and Church Crookham, helping to create a continuous urban area that threatens the identity and individuality of the village. Much of this development is now within the village but not of the village that it threatens. To disallow the gap areas in the Village Plan would finish the coalescence job. The separate identity of the Crookham Village would be lost, as would that of Dogmersfield, and we would just be part of a vast urban sprawl.

One only needs to read the public responses to the original planning application for the development of Cross Farm, in one of the Gap Areas, to see the extent to which these areas are valued by the local community for their rural walks, their wildlife and the irreplaceable views across the countryside. To this, I would add their value as good agricultural land.

If these gap areas are not recognised, further development will surely follow and not only will valuable assets be lost forever, but traffic flow, already acknowledged to be at peak capacity even before the start of the development at Grove Farm, will become a problem of immense proportions.

Crookham Village has already had far more than its fair share of development, a halt needs to be called, and the value of its remaining gap areas needs to be affirmed.