

# Lindon Farm in Alfold

March 2016

## Alfold Parish Council

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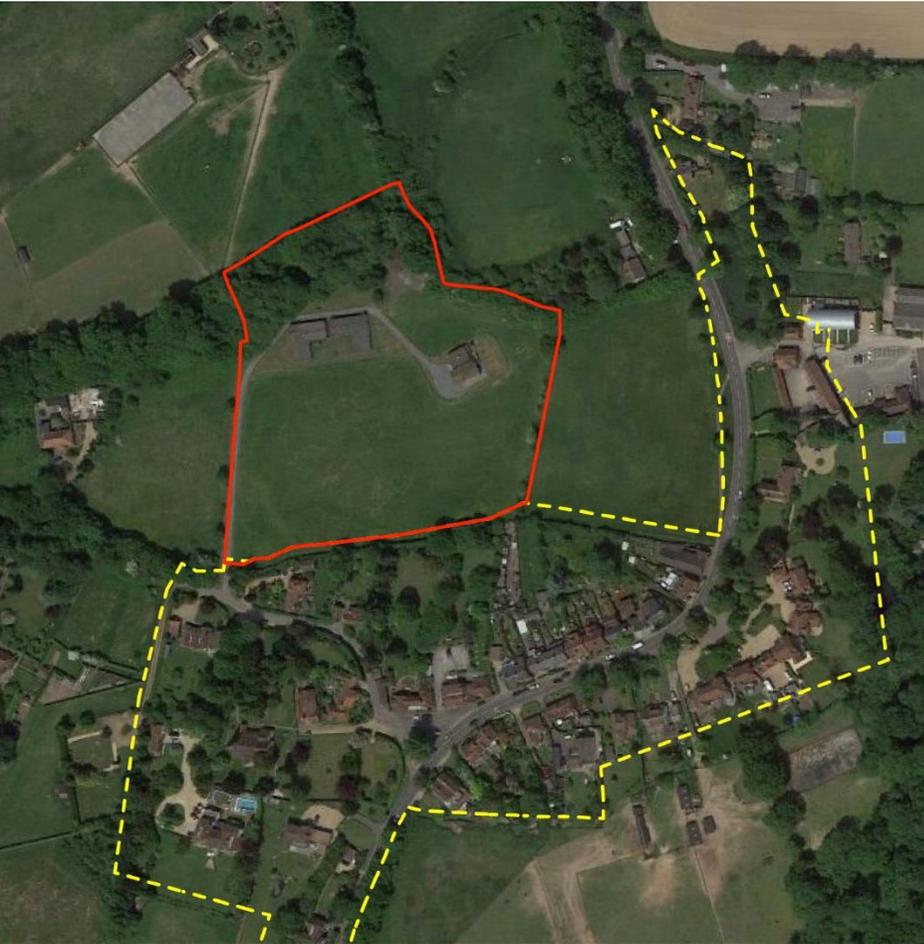


SURREY

# Purpose

- Share the Council's vision for Lindon Farm, Alfold
- Explain a little about autism and supported living
- Outline the early design proposals
- Explain the needs assessment process
- Share the Council's plan to engage with the local community in Alfold
- Gather your ideas, concerns and recommendations

# Understanding the site



# Vision

- Surrey County Council acquired Lindon Farm, Rosemary Lane, Alfold (six acres) in August 15, following Council's Cabinet approval
- Aim is to provide long term supported living accommodation for ten adults with autism and high support needs
- Aligns with Council's strategy to support individuals with disabilities to maximise their independence, to be part of local community and to live near their families in Surrey
- Plan is to demolish three existing buildings and barn and to rebuild to best practice in autism design in partnership with developer – anticipate ready for tenants to move in during summer 18
- Council will commission an organisation to provide care and support
- Subject to approval of business case by Council's Cabinet (May 16) and securing planning permission (July to Oct 16)

# What is Autism?

- A lifelong developmental condition which can affect:
  - The person's ability to interact socially and communicate
  - The person's ability to understand others' point of view
  - The person's ability to make decisions and change their behaviour
  - Focus on detail, and difficulty seeing the big picture
  - Sensory differences - oversensitivity or undersensitivity
  - The world can seem very confusing, and anxiety-provoking
- 1 in 100 people have Autism
- A 'spectrum' - some people are fully independent, others need round the clock support and a spacious environment

The image shows the cover and content of a factsheet titled "Autism Spectrum Conditions (ASC)". The cover features the Surrey Autism Partnership Board logo and a photograph of a young man in a blue hoodie. The text on the cover includes "Introduction" and "Each person is different". The content below the cover discusses common experiences shared by many people with autism, such as having a small range of interests, difficulty working out what others are thinking and feeling, and feeling overwhelmed by a mass of people, places, and events.

**Autism Spectrum Conditions (ASC)**

Surrey Autism Partnership Board

**Introduction**

This factsheet aims to give you a basic understanding about people with autism. People think, process information and experience the world differently. This can lead to difficulties with communication, relationships and thinking and behaving flexibly.

*Each person is different*

*However, there are common experiences many people with autism share.*

- People may have a small range of interests that they are very passionate about. People may have routines they rely on.
- People often find it hard to work out what others are thinking and feeling. People often find the way other people talk and behave confusing.
- The world can seem like a mass of people, places & events which is hard to make sense of. People may get anxious quite often.

# Why we Need to do Something Different for People with Autism?

- National under-recognition
- Lack of accessible services
- Avoidable crises and hospitalisations
- People forced to live far from home
- Families feeling they have to fight authorities to get access to services

## Central Government Response:

- Autism Act 2009
- National Autism Strategy 2010, Think Autism 2015
- Equality Act 2010 – includes autism
- Care Act 2014 – specifically references autism
- Transforming Care 2015 – local community services for people with complex support needs, including autism

*Autism Spectrum Conditions (ASC)*



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# What do we do in Surrey?

- Autism Partnership Board –coordinated response from Health, Social Care, Education, Support Providers, Surrey People with Autism and Surrey Family Carers
- National Good Practice in Autism Training
- New Autism Diagnostic Service
- Commissioned supported living services for people with autism
  - These services have been successful, but so far have missed a cohort of Surrey people who need a lot of internal and external space. Lindon Farm aims to address this

More information from

<http://www.surreypb.org.uk/modx/welcome-to-the-surrey-autism-partnership-board.html>

<http://www.surreypb.org.uk/modx/our-autism-factsheets.html>



Surrey Autism  
Partnership Board

# What is Supported Living?

- People who live in supported living have a tenancy
- The support comes from an organisation separate from the landlord
- The level of support is assessed by Adult Social Care and Health professionals
- Funding for support is arranged based on these assessments
- This allows the support to be designed around the individual and the housing to be sourced separately
- Supported living can be arranged in general needs housing, or specially designed or adapted housing if required, as at Lindon Farm



# Design

- Council has awarded contract for design team to Architects, Haverstock in collaboration with Breeze Landscape
- Widely recognised as leading architects in design of buildings for people with Special Education Needs and have delivered number of autism specialist projects
- Priors Court, independent special school for children and young people with autism, are providing advice to Council on consultancy basis
- Early proposals are for four single storey buildings:
  - Five supported living flats, each designed for one person (with one x staff sleeping accommodation)
  - One shared supported living flat designed for three people person (with one x staff sleeping accommodation)
  - One shared supported living flat designed for two people
  - An activity centre with sensory and therapy provision and staff offices (single storey but taller)
  - Private gardens; communal parking area; allotments and growing area; residents walk/exercise track

# Design



# Design

- Proposed building layout and physical form relates to Surrey farm settlement and references Alfold's agricultural origins
- Maintain open field character
- Proposed site of buildings relates to existing site building footprints
- Survey and manage ancient woodland, trees and fauna to enhance biodiversity and as backdrop to buildings
- Opportunity to improve Public Right of Way to positive benefit of the community
- Sustainable drainage strategy and ecological enhancement of site
- Create natural fences/boundaries and additional tree planting
- Enhance environment and ecology adjacent to Alfold Conservation Area

# Needs Assessment

- Surrey County Council will be responsible for deciding who will be offered a tenancy based upon assessed need:
  - Identify all young people and adults for whom Lindon Farm may potentially be an option by Feb 16
  - Needs assessments completed by Sept 16
  - Decision making process, supported by external challenge from an autism expert – Oct to Dec 16
  - Decision on who will be offered a tenancy by Christmas 16

# Local engagement

- Regular briefings with local politicians
  - Member of Parliament - Anne Milton
  - County Councillor - Victoria Young
  - Waverley District Councillor - Kevin Deanus
  - Chair of Local Committee (Waverley) - Pat Frost
  - Chair of Parish Council - Nik Pidgeon
- Briefing Local Committee (Waverley) and Alfold Parish Council in March
- Early engagement with Alfold community planned for April to understand and respond to views and impact of proposals
- Stakeholder Partnership Board to act as sounding board and critical friend
  - The Simon Trust, representatives from Surrey National Autistic Society, Surrey Autism Partnership Board, Positive Behaviour Support Network, Jigsaw Trust and Normandy Therapy Garden

# Some challenges

- Local feeling about number and scale of planning applications
- Access via corner of Loxwood Road and Rosemary Lane
- Local drainage and sewerage provision