

Press Release 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2016

## Dunsfold Airfield planning application

Eleven Parish Councils representing over 21,000 residents ask Secretary of State to “call in” Dunsfold Park.

**Eleven Parish Councils within Waverley, Guildford and Chichester Local Authorities have got together to write a letter to Greg Clark MP, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (“SoS”), requesting that he calls-in the application for the proposed development at Dunsfold Park of 1,800 to 3,400 dwellings and a large amount of additional business space. Supporting statements are appended which have been written by CPRE Waverley, CPRE Guildford and by the Protect Our Waverley Campaign Group.**

The Secretary of State has the power to call in a planning application to direct that it be referred to him for determination after a Public Inquiry instead of being dealt with by the Local Authority i.e. Waverley Borough Council (“WBC”).

The procedure in effect is that if the SoS agrees with the request, he may inform WBC that if they are minded to approve the application they cannot grant the permission without his consent. WBC would go through all their planning deliberations up to their Planning Committee meeting and could refuse the application but could not grant it.

The Parish Councils and others hope that WBC will be robust in deciding the issues both relating to the Dunsfold application and the Local Spatial Strategy - including challenging the assessment of 519 as the number of new homes required to be built each year in Waverley.

The Parish Councils consider that the Dunsfold proposal

- breaches policies of the extant Local Plan;
- flies in the face of previous decisions that Dunsfold Airfield is an isolated and unsustainable site;
- pre-empts the ability of WBC to determine in its imminent new Local Plan the extent of its housing needs, whether to meet them in full and where to meet such needs;
- has significant effects beyond Waverley in Guildford and West Sussex;
- would result in very large amounts being required to be spent on infrastructure and other services;

and that it raises issues and effects beyond the Borough that should be aired at a Public Inquiry and not be left to WBC to decide.

- ENDS -

Note on call in power of SoS:

The call-in powers of SoS are set out in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and are very general in scope. A ministerial statement on 26 October 2012, noting that the call-in powers included large residential developments, said that the call-in indicators would now include cases which “may have significant long-term impact on economic growth and meeting housing needs across a wider area than a single local authority”.

Contact:

Beverley Weddell, Clerk to Alfold, Hascombe and Plaistow & Ifold Parish Councils 01483 200314  
Charles Orange Chairman Hascombe Parish Council 01483 208343