

# DON'T WRECK GUILDFORD



A leaflet produced by the Guildford Society and East Guildford's Residents' Associations (EGRA) on behalf of those who value our town and want a dynamic Guildford with more housing for local needs, but who want to stop harmful expansion and over-development aimed at absorbing insatiable inward migration, largely from London overspill.



## TIME FOR EVERYONE TO SPEAK OUT!

The Government has launched a final consultation on the Plan for the South East Region which will determine Guildford's development for the next 20 years.

This summer is our last chance to change these plans:

### **GUILDFORD TO BE TURNED INTO A SUPER "REGIONAL HUB" AND A "CENTRE FOR SIGNIFICANT CHANGE"**

**TARGETED FOR DRAMATIC HOUSING AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**

**LINKED TO A WOKING SUPER "REGIONAL HUB"**

**("STRATEGIC GAP" SEPARATING GUILDFORD AND WOKING TO BE SCRAPPED)**

### **A STAGGERING 8,000-10,000 NEW HOMES IN OUR TOWN**

**6,000+ NEW HIGH DENSITY HOMES CRAMMED INTO THE TOWN  
HARMING THE CHARACTER AND GREENNESS OF OUR COMMUNITIES**

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**A VAST ESTATE OF 2,000+ HOMES (PLUS PROVISION FOR 2,110 MORE) IN OUR  
GREEN BELT BY BURPHAM AND MERROW - ALSO AN EXTENSION OF WOKING**

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**MAJOR INTENSIFICATION AND REDEVELOPMENT OF OUR TOWN CENTRE**

Last summer, Inspectors increased Guildford's housing targets by 31% over the draft SE Plan.

In this consultation, the Secretary of State proposes that these targets be regarded as a minimum. She wants Guildford to undergo even more radical redevelopment even though she admits we suffer "infrastructure problems" and "congested and unreliable journeys".

Housing will be largely to accommodate inward migration from London.

*This is not about sensitive provision of affordable housing to meet local needs.*

The Government's own Sustainability Appraisal concludes the revised SE Plan will lead to:

Increased **road congestion** and **rail overcrowding**, a **deterioration in water quality** and a **negative impact on water resources, air pollution and climate change.**

Urban concentration will place the **historic cores of settlements and landscape of the urban fringe at risk** while **Affordability** would continue to **deteriorate.**

Development is likely to take place in areas of **flood risk** and there is likely to be a **negative effect on biodiversity and open spaces**

**Exacerbation of existing problems** - road congestion, water provision etc. - **could reduce the quality of life and make the region less attractive for business.**

# THANKS to all who wrote letters in 2007

As a result, our Councillors are in no doubt about how residents feel and will be holding a **meeting on 8 September** to help us to speak up for Guildford in this consultation.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO NOW?

**To try and prevent Guildford being irrevocably damaged, it is vital that all concerned residents respond to the consultation ASAP - and well before the deadline of 24 October 2008 - by one of the following means:**

**1. If you are not comfortable using the internet and have only a few minutes to spare:**

Fill in the attached front sheet with your personal details.

Write your name at the top of each of the 4 completed comment sheets which are attached. Send to "The RSS Team, Government Office for the South East, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 4GA".

**2. If you are comfortable using the internet and have a few minutes to help:**

Go to the EGRA ([www.egra.org.uk](http://www.egra.org.uk)) or Guildford Society websites ([www.guildfordsociety.org.uk](http://www.guildfordsociety.org.uk)), download and view the suggested list of preformatted replies, ideally adding your own comments, fill in the front sheet and send by **E-Mail** to [rss@gose.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:rss@gose.gsi.gov.uk) or by **Post** (as above).

**3. If you are comfortable using the internet and want to make a real difference:**

You can reply online at <http://gose.limehouse.co.uk/portal>. Open *Secretary of State's Proposed Changes*. You need to *log in* by pressing *register*. Fill in your details and decide on a password. You can then login and register comments as often as you like by pressing *add comments*.

**Note that all comments have to be linked to changes proposed by the Inspectors and the Secretary of State. This is a consultation on proposed changes only. A separate form is needed for each proposed change.**

**Whichever of the above you choose to use, please also write a letter to:**

The Editor, Tony Green, Stoke Mill, Woking Rd, Guildford GU1 1QA ([editorial@surreyad.co.uk](mailto:editorial@surreyad.co.uk))

**Remember, if you do not reply you are supporting:**

- **over 10,000 extra dwellings in Guildford, largely to meet the needs of London overspill**
- **development of green space between Guildford and Woking with housing estates!**

### Key Messages

- It would be unsustainable and damaging to build 8,000-10,000+ extra homes in Guildford, to turn Guildford into a super "regional hub" and "centre for significant change" (radically expanding the town and encouraging major high density redevelopment) and to scrap protection of the "strategic gap" that has kept Guildford and Woking separate.
- Guildford is well-suited to being a dynamic market town, an educational and administrative centre and a railway hub but it is ill-suited to accommodating overspill from London on the scale proposed. It is constrained by its location in a gap in the Downs and by constricted roads. Flood plains run through the town and spread to the north and south. Internationally rare heathland to the NW and the Surrey Hills to the east and west must be protected. It is encircled by valued Green Belt.

East Guildford Residents Association (EGRA)  
Chairman: Dr G Hibbert Secretary: Mr J Rattray Website: [www.egra.org.uk](http://www.egra.org.uk)  
Member RAs: Abbotswood, Burpham, Chantry View, Clandon, Cranley Road Area, Downsedge, Holy Trinity, Merrow, Shalford and Tyting

The Guildford Society  
Chairman: Mrs M Wailen  
Secretary: Mrs S Kirkland  
Website: [www.guildfordsociety.org.uk](http://www.guildfordsociety.org.uk)