

HOLMWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

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By email: planning.policy@molevalley.gov.uk

Mr Guy Davies
Mole Valley District Council
Pippbrook
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Surrey RH4 1SJ

Dear Mr Davies

Modest Expansion of Existing Villages.

Hereunder is Holmwood Parish Council's response to the Modest Expansion of Existing Villages proposals as outlined in the presentation to the Council by you and Mr Andrew Barber from Mole Valley District Council's Planning Department on 6th September 2018.

Firstly, Council does recognise that Mole Valley District Council – as with many others - is burdened with the task of implementing central Government's policy in respect of the resolution of the immigration/population/housing issue.

However, without wishing to be seen as taking a negative attitude towards the problem, Council's consensus of considered opinion is that South Holmwood simply does not have the physical capacity or the infrastructure or, indeed, any perceived local demand for additional development within the village. This echoes Council's response to the presentation by Ms. Claire Mallalieu back in January 2018.

Council also recognises the device of "insetting/removing" villages from the Green Belt such as to allow residential development, including in-filling. Even the "insetting" of South Holmwood would not seem to offer such an opportunity, particularly as the one piece of land that would be incorporated within the proposed village boundary amendment is known to be effectively unfit for development purpose.

In more general terms, Council is severely critical of the appropriation/violation of Green Belt land - the more so of that within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Moreover, it deplores that central Government's "broad brush" national planning objectives should over-ride the more focussed consideration of local practicalities and concerns.

Yours sincerely

John Chiverton

John Chiverton
Chairman
Holmwood Parish Council