

I am speaking as the elected member for the Durrants ward and as a resident of the ward

The elected members of the planning committee decided to overturn the officers decision at the January planning meeting, which firstly listed it as greenbelt then, within the report referred to the area as greybelt using, in my opinion, poor Government guidelines. Members overruled this and, after a long debate, I proposed that the application should be turned down. This was a unanimous decision by all members of the committee.

I have lived in Croxley Green for over 60 years and have been a district Councillor for 28 years and on the planning committee for most of this time.

I disagreed with the officers' report, which, as I have just mentioned, stated that this site was in the greenbelt, a fact that Mr Young reiterated yesterday afternoon that "this is appropriate development in the greenbelt" the only difference between Mr. Young and myself are 2 letters, I and N. I still maintain that this site is inappropriate development in said greenbelt. Also, I could not understand why the Council officers did not use purpose "C" which states that, "to assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment" which this application appears to do. I have been at this enquiry since it started last Thursday so, have heard from all the people who wished to speak, Residents, Residents Associations, Parish and District Councillors. As, sir, you have made copious amounts of notes as we have gone along, I have little need to reiterate all the points made. I would agree with pretty much everything that has been said, from traffic issues put forward by parish Cllr Gallagher which included on and offsite parking provision, the water and sewage issues, put forward by District Cllr Mitchell alongside health and design issues. The idea of a bus service which only runs for 5 years subsidized and then, after that is expected to be run as a profit-making route, is frankly ludicrous, Beryl bikes which may be more successful elsewhere, but I doubt their usage here. With regard to the medical centre, it emerged only yesterday, that there may not be one on this site because of a decision by the ICB. We do need one in Croxley Green, of that there is no doubt but, this is really the wrong place and would force the closure of New Rd, Baldwins Lane and Sarratt surgeries, this would mean that these other sites would be sold off for more housing. It also means a difficult journey from the other side of CG, probably by car, as for the Sarratt surgery, it would mean a 3.4 mile journey, so more cars, as no one would wish to care to walk or cycle from Sarratt along a country lane with no footpath and a lot of traffic. With regard to traffic, I was the County Cllr for CG for 12 years and was on, amongst other things, Development Control which, in "countyspeak" for Planning and so, had a lot of dealings with Highways. They, understandably, always looked to mitigate traffic issues rather than look at impacts on existing problems.

My last point is the section 106 agreements, the monies allocated for highways and education, amongst other things and the fact that HCC will cease to exist after April 2028, where will the monies go? If they are to be given over to the new Unitary Authority, which, at the moment consist of TRDC, Watford and Hertsmere Borough Councils. Will the new Authority have to agree to the terms and conditions and amounts? Or will the Authority wish to revisit this and any other descions made between now and handover, as they may have different views on the outcome of this and other 106 agreements across all 3 existing Councils.

I did indeed work to make Durrants House a grade 2 listed building so now the residents have a view not just along a corridor according to the plan in front of us but all of the housing across this site.

Thank you for your time

Cllr Steve Drury