



Mr Guy Davies
Planning Policy Manager
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Pippbrook
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Mr Tim Way, Chairman, WVA
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6th September 2018

Dear Guy,

Modest Additions to Larger Rural Villages

Westcott Open Meeting

Can I deal with two points:-

Firstly, at the meeting on Tuesday night you made a statement which the WVA believe to be inaccurate and as a result, many of those present on Tuesday night believe that the WVA was in some way complicit in proactively seeking sites in the Green Belt to be put forward for development and were also complicit in identifying the two sites you presented on the north-western and north-eastern edges of the village.

Could I set the record straight on both counts.

At the meeting you attended on 10th January you indicated two things only. Firstly, you gave us a broad overview of the rationale for the modest additions to larger rural villages proposals and a list of questions you wanted us to consider. The WVA then agreed that these questions should be published and be put to an open meeting which was arranged for the beginning of May, but which was subsequently postponed by Mole Valley. You also mentioned that a call for sites had gone out which would close on 5th February 2018 (just 4 weeks away from the date of the WVA meeting). At no point did you ask us to actively encourage sites to be put forward.

In late July you wrote to me informing me that you were now ready to put forward more concrete proposals for consultation. I asked that the WVA be informed as to what these were but you declined to do so, saying that Council policy prevented this. You did agree to meet me before the start of the Open meeting however, which you did at 19.15 on the evening of the meeting - 15 minutes before the audience was made aware of the proposals.

As I said on the night the WVA had become aware of the north-western site but at no stage were we officially pre-informed of these very specific proposals on the two sites.

This is an important point in order that the WVA maintains the trust of residents in what we all recognise is a very emotive subject. We will work with you on the best solution for the village, but I hope you agree that it is important that we can do so without having to deal with misunderstandings.

Secondly, you mentioned that other sites in Westcott were put forward, but had been rejected by the Council. We would be grateful if you can provide a list of those sites and the reasons why they were rejected. This will help us reach a conclusion on whether we agree with your assessments, and whether any local factors which we would be aware of might change those decisions. Can we deal with this without recourse to a FOI request?

Once again, my thanks for attending the meeting and for presenting to the audience.

With my regards

Tim Way

Chairman