

Letter news@farnhamherald.com

Sir, -

I am writing on behalf of the 7,472 Farnham residents, 95% of whom voted in favour of adopting the Farnham Neighbourhood Plan, with grave concerns about a lack of democracy.

As a local community group, the Frensham Vale Action Group cares deeply about the environment. We, along with thousands of others, strongly support the Farnham Neighbourhood Plan. However, it seems that the Planning Inspectorate has ignored everyone who voted to adopt the Plan and given the go ahead to build two new houses on the Frensham Vale Flood Plain.

After eight years of planning refusals and hundreds of local objections against building on the front garden of 30 Frensham Vale, the two Inspectors disregarded numerous aspects of the National Planning Policy Framework and the Farnham Local Plan and allowed both buildings to be passed despite them being **outside the Farnham Built-Up Area Boundary**.

Local concerns regarding flooding over the past 70 years continue, and this year's increase in flooding due to climate change seems to have been overlooked by Waverley planners and the Inspectors in Bristol. The Frensham Vale Action Group believes that concreting on a Flood Plain will lead to further flooding and erosion of the local countryside and rich woodland that so many people cherish. The Group believes the approval goes against the wishes of thousands of local voters.

We would like to thank the local Councillors Carole Cockburn and Roger Blishen along with Rt. Hon. Jeremy Hunt for their continued support of our campaign. We commend our MP's impassioned speech in Parliament on the 8th October opposing the government's damaging proposals to change the planning system. We wholeheartedly share his "grave reservations" and agree this is an "undermining of local democracy" that ignores the rights of local people and threatens our beautiful countryside.

We call on Waverley Planning to support Farnham by opposing these decisions directly with the Inspectorate just as other Planning Authorities have done elsewhere in England.

Spokesperson for the Frensham Vale Action Group.

More information can be found here www.frenshamvale.info

Joseph Michel, Chair FVAG

23 Frensham Vale

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