

FACE

Fleet and Crookham
Environment **is Threatened**



15th September 2014

Locals relieved as development rejected

Local residents, supported by community group FACE-IT were relieved last week as Hart's planning committee rejected Martin Grants proposed Albany Park development at Watery Lane, Church Crookham.

In a tense 2 and $\frac{3}{4}$ hour meeting, both sides offered in-depth arguments which also saw Crookham Village Parish Council offer their objections to the development.

The development, which would desecrate a significant part of the upper Hart Valley was felt to be too urbanised for such an area of environmental biodiversity. The councillors also voiced their concerns on transport and flooding issues.

FACE-IT chairman Max Clark commented:

"Last week the Planning Committee of Hart Council recommended the rejection of Martin Grant's planning application for Watery Lane, Church Crookham, which is part of Crookham Village Parish.

This meeting saw the culmination of a year's hard work by a group of FACE-IT members. Supported by many concerned locals, the group spent countless hours looking at documents, researching policies, delivering leaflets and speaking to residents to produce a detailed understanding and build arguments against the assessment submitted by Martin Grant.

Press Release

The Councillors highlighted a large number of the concerns which had been raised by residents such as traffic, schooling, flooding and damage to a sensitive environment. The FACE-IT team would like to thank those councillors for listening to the arguments put forward by the local community and for their majority decision.

FACE-IT would also like to thank those individuals who have helped over the past year. FACE-IT are very proud of the community and how everyone has pulled together when needed. It is our town and we need to keep looking after it and each other.

At the beginning of the process many people suggested there was 'no point', 'no one will listen', 'it's a done deal'. This decision has shown if the public engage with their local councillors that they will listen and the local community really can work together more effectively.

Whilst we are pleased the development has been rejected, this is just the first stage of what could be a very long process. The team will continue to monitor developments and call on supporters when needed."

To find out more about FACE-IT and other proposed developments in the area please visit: www.faceit-group.org.

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Note to Editors:

FACE-IT is a local campaign group for the Fleet and Crookham areas of Hart with an increasing membership and profile. The group has been actively engaged in the planning process and has encouraged Hart to review and improve local plans for the benefit of the community and the environment.

The FACE-IT group is campaigning for a better local development plan for Hart that provides full and balanced arguments for and against all the potential development sites in Hart and not just for those to the west of Fleet. A key aim of FACE-IT is to make the critical information that needs to be considered for planning housing available and understandable to everyone so that they can actively influence local decision-makers.

The sheer number of homes being proposed is of great concern and currently includes 450 homes at Grove Farm adjacent to Crookham Village and West Fleet, a further phase of 170 homes at the 'Edenbrook' development to the west of Fleet, development at the brownfield site of Tudgeys Nursery in Crookham Village, a number of other smaller developments and 'garden-grabbing' schemes as well as the remaining threat of the 300 houses on Watery Lane, Church Crookham, which could continue to an appeal by the developer.

For further information contact publicity@faceit-group.org or socialmedia@faceit-group.org