

Compton Parish Council Local Plan Sub-Committee Meeting - January 2021

A3 widening

The Local Plan Sub-Committee held a telecon with Patrick Blake (Highways England Spatial Planning Manager for Area 3) on November 19, 2020 to discuss the impact of the A3 widening not going ahead on the Guildford Local Plan. He stated that there had been no dialogue between HE and GBC since the government publication of the Government Road Investment Strategy in March. A copy of the notes from this meeting is attached (Annex A).

AONB

The Local Plan Sub-Committee attended the online 2020 Surrey Hills AONB Symposium "Making Space for Nature", hosted by the University of Surrey. The focus of the meeting was on re-greening areas and protecting hedgerows. There was no news or date given for the forthcoming Surrey Hills AONB Boundary Review.

Guildford Society Meeting

The Local Plan Sub-Committee attended the Guildford Society Meeting on December 10, 2020. Minutes from the meeting are attached (Annex B)

ONS

MPs in the Midlands are calling for an inquiry into 2019 population projections produced by the Office of National Statistics (ONS). It was found that Coventry's ONS predictions exaggerated population growth by 60,000. This case has been reviewed by 4 expert demographers, who have endorsed its analysis. Merle Gering, a green belt campaigner in Coventry, believes that Guildford's population projections may be similarly exaggerated. She points out that the alleged 2019 population of Guildford is much larger than the actual number of houses that have been provided since 2011 and asks where all those extra people are living. There aren't enough new houses for them. See figures below:

Guildford: census 2011 = 137,183

ONS mid year estimate (MYE) 2019 = 148,998

Estimate of the 2019 population (based on the number of net new homes provided since 2011) = 143,071

Net number of homes actually built since 2011 = 2,410

Number that would have been needed if the population was actual 148,998 = 4836 homes (assuming 2.44 persons /household (2011 figure))

Niels Laub, has raised this issue with Council Leader Joss Bignore, who has responded to say that it "merits further investigation".

