

From: "Derek Glendinning"
Subject: Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan Green Belt
Date: 17 September 2018 at 16:03:40 BST
To: <louise@poservices.co.uk>

Dear Louise,

Thank you for affording me the opportunity to comment on efforts to increase the planned number of houses in the Plan by building on Green Belt Land in order to achieve the prescribed overall total.

While I admire the ingenuity of the consultants in identifying possible piecemeal sites, I feel that this exercise encapsulates the problems inherent in compiling the present Plan and opens discussion on what will happen after 2032 and far beyond. As with the allocation of other brownfield, greenfield, open space, garden suburb, windfall etc sites can one be sure that the unique character of Welwyn Garden City and its surroundings which are internationally renowned will be preserved? Why are the totals accepted without apparent contradiction and are they correctly adjusted in consideration of the area's nature having been imposed by external consultants probably ignorant of the town's qualities? What on earth happens next time? I can envisage a situation where the capacity of housing in South East England will still be insufficient and hence be so expensively priced that at last there will of necessity be a reverse migration to other parts of the country to the benefit of everyone's prosperity and quality of life. In the interim, new garden cities need to be built in completely new areas, as was the original purpose of Welwyn Garden City, and the pressure reduced for ever more concentrated building in and around existing towns.

Best wishes,

Derek Glendinning.

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