

ICKLEFORD PARISH COUNCIL



www.icklefordpc.com

1 Freewaters Close, Ickleford,
Hertfordshire, SG5 3TQ
Email: mail@icklefordpc.com
Telephone: 07913 839933



Local Plan News - August 2017

Dear Resident

While fully accepting the need for some new housing in the area, Ickleford Parish Council remains determined to fight the NHDC Local Plan due to the impact and extent of the proposed developments on our village. We think our submission to the planning inspector, who is currently reviewing all responses, is fair and reasoned in its objections and concerns, and hope to be called to give evidence at the review.

It appears that NHDC are determined to press ahead with the Local Plan despite a 98% objection rate during their consultation, and will do whatever they can to ensure the inspector approves their submission; we need to be equally determined in our opposition. It is becoming increasingly apparent that if each affected village in north Herts tried to battle NHDC separately we would probably all fail as, individually, we cannot afford access to the legal and technical experts who have the in-depth knowledge to challenge the assumptions which are contained in the Local Plan.

Your Parish Council is therefore proposing to join with other villages and communities to give us strength in numbers in opposing the Plan. Please find attached a flyer for the *Save Our Green Belt in North Herts* (SOGB) group which sets out the issues of concern, the aims of the organisation, ways in which you can learn more, and what **you** can do to help to stop the Local Plan in its tracks. You will see that SOGB has a target for a 'fighting fund' to cover the cost of mounting the strongest possible case against NHDC when the Local Plan comes before the inspector. Ickleford Parish Council has sought and received assurances on the accuracy of the estimates and appropriateness of the financial controls of SOGB. It is for all of us to decide whether we wish to contribute as individuals.

Our collective aim – to get the inspector to agree that the Local Plan is flawed – is, according to the legal advice given to SOGB, most likely to be achieved by challenging NHDC's proposal to cast aside the protection which the Green Belt provides against inappropriate development. This is why the organisation was given its name. However, the other objections and concerns which Ickleford Parish Council and residents raised – increased traffic, inadequate infrastructure, environmental and social impact – will all be covered in the SOGB campaign.

We think joining SOGB is by far our best chance to prevent Ickleford being overwhelmed by over 400 new homes, and would actively encourage everyone to get involved with SOGB by whatever means you can.

Please let us know what you think of our proposed approach to this, one of the greatest challenges our village has faced. You can speak to any of your parish councillors (contact details can be found at icklefordpc.com/html/members.html), email us at mail@icklefordpc.com, or join us at the next parish council meeting on 7 September in the Village Hall.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Miles Maxwell', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Miles Maxwell

Chairman, Ickleford Parish Council