



We ♥ Hart Campaign

For immediate release – 6 February 2014

Opposition to Hart Council’s New Town strategy grows as the We ♥ Hart Campaign petition takes off

Signatories to the We ♥ Hart petition have exceeded 620¹. Despite having been launched only a fortnight ago, this already exceeds the 550² respondents to the Housing Options consultation organised by Hart District Council between August and October 2014. Only 202 of the respondents to the consultation voted for the new town as their preferred option, compared to the 620 and growing number of signatories against. The campaign is opposed to the overall number of houses Hart is being forced to build and is strongly against the building of a new town anywhere in Hart.

The rapid take up of the petition and the reaction on social media shows there is strong and growing opposition within Hart to the council’s preferred housing strategy as residents realise that the new town increases the risks of Hart creating additional capacity that the district does not need. If the new town is built, Hart may be forced to build an extra 3,100³ (see graphic) houses, on top of the 7,500 already in the plan, that Surrey Heath and Rushmoor say they have no room for.

“It is clear that 7,500 extra houses in the district is already too many, but we need to find the best approach to locating those that we are forced to build. There is increasing awareness that a new town of 5,000 houses in Winchfield, just a few hundred metres from the western end of Fleet, will add to the already severe congestion problems in Fleet and Church Crookham compared to other approaches. A new town will lead to an extra 12,500 people on the outskirts of the existing settlements and of course many of them will work in Basingstoke, Fleet, Farnham, Farnborough and Aldershot and will have to drive through Hartley Wintney, Hook, Dogmersfield, Fleet and the Crookhams to go about their business. It is time for Hart to think again” said David Turver who set up the We Heart Hart campaign.

Tristram Cary, spokesman for Winchfield Action Group (WAG) welcomed the petition saying “It is really encouraging to see people right across Hart opposing a new town in Winchfield as they realise the

¹ See <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/we-hart> for latest figures

² http://www.hart.gov.uk/sites/default/files/4_The_Council/Policies_and_published_documents/Planning_policy/Summary%20of%20Responses%20to%20Housing%20Options%20paper.pdf Table 1

³ See <http://wehearhart.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Council-questions-26-11-14-Public-and-Councillors.pdf> p17 and see graphic below



devastating impact it will have on the whole of the district as well as on one of the most attractive parts of Hart. It will also take away one of the most popular amenity areas in the district”.

Ends

For further information, please contact: David Turver at wehearhart@gmail.com

Notes to editors

- 1) The objectives of the We ♥ Hart campaign are:
 - a. To reduce the overall housing allocation for Hart District
 - b. Demand that the Council develops a vision and strategy for Hart that retains its role as a rural, green hinterland for NE Hampshire that respects the separate character and identity of Hart’s settlements and landscapes and preserves the green spaces as amenity space for the urban settlements.
 - c. To require that the housing need is met by building on brownfield sites and increasing density in our existing urban areas
 - d. To request that future housing stock reflects the needs of the changing demographics of the district.
 - e. To demand the council and government do not plan for any new settlement in Hart that will act as a sink for the unmet housing need in neighbouring areas.
- 2) More detail can be found at: wehearhart.co.uk and <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/we-hart>
- 3) Social feeds: @WeHeartHart and <https://www.facebook.com/groups/IHeartHart>
- 4) We ♥ Hart logo can be downloaded from here <http://wehearhart.co.uk/home/get-involved/>
- 5) Winchfield Action Group can be found at: winchfieldactiongroup.org

Option 4 Will Make Hart a sink for 3,100 Overflow Houses from Surrey Heath and Rushmoor

