

News Release
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‘Disappointing decision’ - Hart District Council refuses planning for Elvetham Chase despite chronic housing need

Wates Developments today expressed disappointment at Hart District Council’s decision to refuse planning permission for its Elvetham Chase proposal without giving it the chance for proper consideration at Committee.

Emma Gruenbaum from Wates Developments said, ‘Housing in Hart is in crisis, with the District Council relying on 22 year old Local Plan, and the emerging Plan remaining untested and therefore a long way off adoption. With homes costing 12 times average household income, the simple fact is Hart needs more homes now. This decision prevents 280 new affordable homes being delivered to help the 1,300 families currently registered on the housing waiting list. The Council’s decision to refuse this sustainable, high quality, proposal offering a total of 700 homes, delivering an outstanding new community, is simply astonishing.’

The proposal which has no technical constraints and no statutory objections would have provided a vast array of community benefits including;

- £10 million of investment to local primary and secondary schools
- Facilitation of a new on-site primary school for 420 children
- A new on-site 60 place pre-school nursery
- £600k of investment to existing medical facilities
- £6 million to essential local highway improvements as well as physical works across many local road, cycle and footpath routes, improving safety and easing congestion to address local concerns
- A new community bus servicing both the new and existing communities of Elvetham Chase and Elvetham Heath to Fleet railway station and other local destinations
- 82 acres of public open space including; on-site SANG, areas of play, woodland walks and informal space

Emma added, ‘this exemplar landscape led scheme would, we believe, become as loved locally as its predecessor Elvetham Heath. We remain 100% committed to the site and are reviewing our next steps.’

Ends

About Wates Developments

Wates Developments is an expert in delivering residential planning consents throughout Southern England and forms part of the Wates Group founded in 1897. Today the family business, now led by the fourth generation, is one of the largest privately owned construction, property maintenance and development companies in the UK.

The Wates vision is to be the most trusted partner in the built environment based on our core values of integrity, intelligence, performance, teamwork and respect. The importance of both community and sustainability lies at the heart of the business and we see every development as an opportunity to enhance and improve.

Throughout the planning process we positively engage with Local Authorities, Elected Members, Parish Councils, residents and stakeholder groups to understand their needs and aspirations for the future of their environment, enabling us to then sensitively and respectfully inform our proposals.

All our development proposals are based on a thorough assessment of highway and infrastructure capacity, landscape and heritage impacts, and ecology and environmental sustainability. Wates Developments open and consultative approach with the community is consistent with the highly regarded corporate responsibility credentials of the Wates Group.
www.wates.co.uk

For further media information on behalf of Wates Developments contact: Matthew Moth or Jonathan Desmond at Madano on t: 0207 593 4000 or e: matthew.moth@madano.com
jonathan.desmond@madano.com