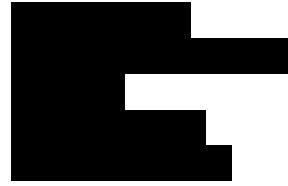


2nd December 2024



Jeremy Hunt MP
2 Royal Parade
Tilford Road
Hindhead
Surrey GU26

Dear Mr Hunt

Lack of GBC enforcement action in Wanborough Fields

On 11th March 2022 you kindly visited The Great Barn, Wanborough with four other local MPs to hear about the ongoing problems of unauthorised development and enforcement issues in Wanborough Fields, as part of the wider Surrey Hills National Landscape boundary review. At the last general election our parish of Wanborough became part of the Godalming and Ash constituency.

Unfortunately, over the last two years and eight months the situation in Wanborough Fields has deteriorated further, as can be attested by Guildford Borough Councillors Matt Furniss and Sallie Barker, who regularly attend our parish council meetings. Wanborough Fields is an area of agricultural land (Article IV status) that has been split into multiple small rectangular plots; over time, and without any planning consent, various plots have added ad hoc sheds, containers, mobile homes, vehicles and rubbish – to the significant detriment of the local landscape, about which local residents are very upset. Although the GBC Planning Department has maintained a firm and consistent approach to refusing planning permission and issuing enforcement notices where unauthorised development on various plots has taken place, GBC appear unwilling or unable (lack of funds) to follow up these procedural and legal steps with any enforcement action. In addition, over the last twelve months GBC have stopped sharing any information with Wanborough Parish Council regarding the status of the outstanding enforcement cases; resulting in a complete lack of transparency.

Predictably the lack of any GBC enforcement “teeth” has emboldened aggressive plot owners to bring more unauthorised material and activity onto their plots.

I would be very grateful for any advice or help you can provide. Should local residents prepare some sort of petition on this matter, as I believe such a petition would receive widespread support?

Yours sincerely

James Henry
Chairman of Wanborough Parish Council