



GUILDFORD GREENBELT GROUP

Putting our countryside first

Our core values

- Brownfield land should be used for building before any green fields
- Housing numbers must reflect real local need not developers' wishes
- Existing legal protection for the Green Belt and the AONB should stand
- Green fields matter - they are not just building land
- The Metropolitan Green Belt is for the benefit of all

Who are we?

- We have led the agenda for change in relation to planning and the environment.
- We formed in 2013. We united opposition to green field building across and around the borough
- We are a cross-party group with no affiliations to any other party
- We stood in local elections in 2015, and have 3 councillors elected to Guildford Borough Council

What have we done?

- GGG is the only real opposition on Guildford Borough Council. We have worked to scrutinise local finances, questioning council plans and spending and investment decisions.
- GGG has argued relentlessly for Guildford Borough Council to reveal the calculations behind the inflated housing numbers in its draft Local Plan. We believe development should reflect real local need, not developers' wishes.
- GGG has battled for more accountable, less dictatorial local government, including a more democratic committee system in Guildford and greater involvement by parish councils and local groups.
- GGG members have stood up bravely for standards of public integrity, combating local corruption and cronyism. GGG supports strong codes of conduct for councillors and council staff.
- GGG has made formal representations on the flaws within the National Planning Policy Framework and have and will continue to lobby for change.

What will we do in Surrey?

Safeguarding our communities for future generations –

- Surrey Council has failed to make public services reflect the county's location. GGG would put people first, ensuring Surrey remains a special place to live. GGG would push for a strategic review of services.
- GGG would seek to improve the shortage of school places and social care for the elderly and vulnerable, even if it means other sacrifices.
- GGG would stop the creeping destruction of our villages. We would encourage high-quality rural jobs and work to preserve our libraries, pubs, shops and post offices – the hubs of village life.

Roads, Congestion, and Air Quality

- GGG would end the culture of growth for growth's sake, halting urban sprawl and protecting the Green Belt to encourage urban regeneration on Surrey's many brownfield sites.
- GGG would work with local councils to accurately map traffic patterns, identify delays in traffic flow, and provide realistic options for improvement of traffic movement. We would resist new roads in the AONB and Greenbelt.
- GGG would sign up immediately to the Brownfield register proposals.
- GGG would work to end Guildford's position as the UK's 6th most congested town and Surrey's shameful place as pothole capital of Britain.
- GGG would implement international best practice to overcome traffic congestion, including better public transport, pedestrian and cycling facilities and car-sharing schemes. GGG would promote sustainable movement corridors where possible to include cycle lanes, and improved safety layouts.
- GGG would improve the bus services through an integrated public transport program. We would work with bus companies to see what is required to link to rail services, promote more regular services, on time monitoring and tracking and consider electric buses and taxis.

Protect the Environment and Air Quality

- GGG believe nature in Surrey is under siege. Council policies need to reflect the countryside's true economic and social value – for agriculture, rural businesses, tourism and leisure, air quality, water catchment and flood control, biodiversity, raw materials, public health and mental wellbeing. We must quantify this and stop squandering our natural capital.

- GGG would end the needless conflict over Newlands Corner, protecting its rural character from commercialisation and seek to put Surrey Wildlife Trust on a more sustainable financial footing.
- GGG would ensure a county wide Air Quality monitoring programme. As a start, we will assemble the technical data needed to make evidence-based arguments for central-government resources.
- GGG will wage war on the fly-tipping epidemic. We will fight to reverse Council decisions that allow your neighbourhood being used a dump for London's waste. GGG will remove charges for using the tip for the general public. We will support policies to increase recycling.
- GGG has an environmental agenda which includes protection of the Surrey Greenbelt, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), Areas of Great Landscape Value (AGLV), Thames Basin Heath Special Protection Area (SPA), and Areas of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Our objective will be the promotion of associated health and well-being agenda. We will continue to seek National Park status for the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
- GGG will promote higher environmental standards and energy-saving incentives, which will include the use of solar roof energy where design standards permit.
- GGG will promote public access to the countryside and public understanding of the natural environment. As the most "wooded" county in England, we endorse the CPRE "Manifesto for the countryside".
- GGG will support the establishment with the Environment Agency of Local Flood forums.

Social Care – Elderly

- GGG would increase the provision of care for the elderly, particularly domiciliary care.
- GGG believes there is a need for long-term, local government sponsored nursing support homes and home care, to cater for those who are unable to look after themselves. We would work with LPA's and local communities to identify sites and funding from local communities.

Governance and Finance

- GGG would seek to remove inefficiency and waste. This would include a review of council senior management structure and councillor payments.