

Guildford Greenbelt Guardians Press announcement

4 March 2014

Workshop does not meet council motion requirements

Local plan public scrutiny forums, staged this week by Guildford Borough Council in response to a formal vote in January, failed to meet the terms of the Council's motion, according to the borough-wide network Guildford Greenbelt Guardians ["GGG"].

Roland McKinney of GGG said "We asked about the need to **reappraise the Green Belt and Countryside Study**. We were told that Pegasus have not been asked to review or revise this and no fundamental review or change has been commissioned."

On 13 January 2014 Guildford Borough Council agreed by formal vote that "*The Council will enable full public involvement in this reappraisal of the evidence base, especially the Green Belt and Countryside Study, by holding a special joint meeting of the two Scrutiny Committees*".

In response to this on 4 March 2014 GBC held the Local Plan Scrutiny Forum to discuss the evidence base.

The Forum consisted of two parallel workshops, each lasting around 2 hours including introduction. GBC planners will collate responses from these workshops and report their conclusions to the Scrutiny Committees. Further public involvement will be limited to the standard permission for 10 members of the public to attend a committee, but there will be no direct public participation from now on.

"Invited participants were allowed to walk around and meet consultants, seated by topic, but there was no detailed consideration of the evidence base nor the time to do so. This was not public involvement, in the sense agreed by the amendment quoted above. It was GBC and their consultants defending their flawed research and recommendations." says Jules Cranwell of GGG.

GGG does not consider that this meets the undertaking of full public involvement in the reappraisal of the evidence base. We still await the promised public involvement.