

**Guildford Greenbelt Group (GGG)
Press announcement 15 January 2015**

**GUILDFORD GREENBELT GROUP (GGG)
RESPONDS COMMENTS FROM PROFESSOR TIM JACKSON**

GGG responds to comments by a Professor from the University of Surrey, on the impact of economic growth on the environment and nature, broadcast on BBC Radio 4, Shared Planet, 11:00 on 13/01/15.

Extracts from Prof. Tim Jackson's contribution read as follows:

"To give a perspective on what we're doing as an economy, the driving model is to expand consumption as fast as we can, so we can have economic growth.

It's like sitting on a high branch with a saw. Nature has a huge economic value. The value of nature is of the same order of magnitude as the total global world output.

But we are sitting there, digging it up, cutting down trees, and destroying species, giving rise to the decimation of biodiversity.

We are sawing away, not realising this is the branch we are sitting on."

The full programme can be found here, with Prof. Jackson's contribution starting at 8 minutes in: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04xp15k>

Jules Cranwell, committee member of Guildford Greenbelt Group, commented:

"This is a very helpful intervention from Prof. Tim Jackson (Professorial Fellowship on Prosperity and Sustainability in the Green Economy). These comments fully support the objectives of GGG, in striving to save the greenbelt. We welcome these incisive observations from such an eminent source. However, his views would appear to be at odds with those of the university's property developers, who currently plan to build 3,000 (and growing) new homes on the greenbelt at Blackwell Farm on the Hog's Back. His views are also at odds with those of Guildford Borough Council's Tory executive, which is pursuing unwanted economic growth, at the cost of the greenbelt, and the countryside."

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Notes for editors

1. Further information on GGG is available on the GGG website
<http://guildfordgreenbeltgroup.co.uk>
Or on its facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/Guildfordgreenbelt>
2. GGG public meeting open to all members of the public, will be held as follows:
 - 28 January 2015 -Fairlands Community Hall -7pm