

I am a student at the University of East Anglia, but Guildford is my home town. Next year, I hope to graduate. Eventually I may want to buy a flat in Guildford, but I won't be able to afford one straight away and **expect to rent**.

Having said this, I don't believe building **thousands** of houses across the borough will bring the prices down. Any new homes will be snapped up by people from London looking for somewhere cheaper to live. The demand is almost **limitless**.

No matter how many houses you build in Guildford, you won't make them more affordable. Even if you could, I certainly don't want to see the borough **engulfed** by housing estates and the views from the Surrey Hills AONB **blighted**, just so that I can live in the place I grew up. This isn't good for the future.

I would rather live 15 minutes away in Woking or Aldershot where property is cheaper - or **even** 40 minutes away in Basingstoke or Reading. With existing public transport links, it's easy to travel in to visit family or friends or to work. I **like** the town I grew up in - it's a historic market town, with **real** countryside a stone's throw away. I don't want to see it turned into a **metropolis** just so that I can live at a more convenient distance to my family - and **nor do any of my friends**.

I don't see why we must keep building on the Green Belt, when there is so much brownfield land available. **Why** are we building over the views from the Hogs Back, when there are warehouses and offices standing empty at the Midleton, Artington, and Slyfield industrial estates and derelict land at Walnut Tree Close? **When** is it going to stop? **Where** are you going to build next? Are we going to see "**garden neighbourhoods**" springing up over the **Devils' Punchbowl**?

And we're not even building the right kind of houses. We need social housing for those in **genuine** need; and flats for young professionals close to public transport links in town - not the **executive** homes the University is proposing with their reliance on more cars. Your requirement for developments to comprise 45% affordable housing comes with a get-out clause - only if it's **economically viable** for the developer.

I'm not speaking just for myself, I'm speaking for my children and grandchildren and for the generations which have not yet been born, who would like to share in the characterful villages and beautiful landscapes that we've all had the privilege to enjoy. **Aren't these the true silent majority?**