**Threat of 5,000 new houses and additional development between Oliver’s Battery and Hursley**

***What is going on?***

You have probably seen proposals to build 5,000 houses and wider development on green field between Oliver’s Battery and Hursley, together with commercial development on green field in Compton and Shawford Parish.

The Royaldown proposal is euphemistically called a “Garden Village”, but is in fact a new town of approximately 12,000 people, which would extend the conurbation of Winchester south west beyond Oliver’s Battery over the existing farmland and open fields to Hursley village. It would also extend significantly west of the A3090 main road.

This proposed development would have a major effect on Hursley and our neighbouring Parishes of Oliver’s Battery, Compton and Shawford.

***Why here? Why now?***

Winchester City Council (WCC) is currently reviewing its Local Plan, providing a planning policy framework to direct housing growth for the Winchester District, which stretches from Micheldever to Southwick, including Hursley. As part of this process, landowners and developers have put forward sites for development which have been gathered by WCC into the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA). Preferred options for development will be selected from this SHELAA by WCC and allocated within the new Local Plan 2018-2038 for the Winchester District.

The latest SHELAA lists large areas within the parishes of Hursley and Compton and Shawford, including the South Winchester Golf Course, the fields between the Olivers Battery recreation ground and Badger Farm Road and Otterbourne Road, and the entire rural land along both sides of Port Lane from Oliver’s Battery to Hursley village.

WCC is currently awaiting changes in Government Planning Policy before finalising their Plan. These policy changes are anticipated to impose higher development targets on local authorities and reduce the ability of local neighbourhoods to influence developments. Once the new government policy and targets become clear, preferred sites will be selected by WCC, possibly early in 2021, and allocated in the new Local Plan.

***What are we doing in Hursley?***

Your input to the Hursley Parish Plan highlighted your attachment to the rural and historic nature of our Parish and was unanimous in rejecting any future large scale development. The Parish Council and Parish Plan team have followed your views and had decided, before Royal Down appeared, to develop a Hursley Parish Neighbourhood Plan (HPNP)

A Neighbourhood Plan (NP) goes beyond a Parish Plan: it gives Hursley parishioners the power to develop a vision for our parish and to shape its development and growth in ways that match our needs and wishes, but also recognises the broader changes and demands caused by population growth, climate change and working patterns. A Neighbourhood Plan, when approved, forms part of the development plan alongside the WCC Local Plan.

Other parishes, in particular Oliver’s Battery, naturally share our concerns about these massive possible developments and we are in close collaboration with them.

Our first step has been to create a small steering group, to scope out how to develop our Neighbourhood Plan. It will also consider if we need to go further to combat any specific and damaging large scale development so decisively rejected in our Parish Plan.

*How can you help?*

The HPNP will require significant resource of both time and expertise. Much of the input can be provided by tapping the skills and knowledge of our parishioners; this will be supplemented by consultants on specific topics. These will give us the technical background to complete our NP and engage with WCC. The HPNP can help convince WCC why the scale of the proposed Royaldown development threatening Hursley parish is totally inappropriate and identify more sympathetic development in keeping with our rural setting.

If you have expertise in any of the following areas and are willing to volunteer your time, then please contact the ***Hursley Parish Neighbourhood Plan team now via*** ***david@hursley.net.co.uk***

* Project Planning - Strategic Planning and Development
* Landscape and Visual Assessment - Sustainability Appraisal
* Heritage and Conservation Planning - Biodiversity and Environment
* Website Design - Communications

In order to combat a large scale project such as Royal Down it may also be necessary to campaign against it, through communication, lobbying and use of the media. If you want to be involved in this please also provide your details.

***Please keep in touch***

Hursley Parish Council already manages a parish contact email list so that we can more easily and quickly up-date parishioners. If you are not already receiving communications through this list and wish to be included, please send an email to david@hursley.net with your name and address. Similarly if you are receiving emails but no longer wish to, then also email David.

Note that by subscribing you will be consenting to the parish council storing your personal data for this purpose only. The parish council undertakes to store your personal data securely, to use it for this purpose only and to delete it when it no longer required. If you would like your data or details deleted at any time please contact us.

*You can see the Winchester and surrounding Parishes’ Site Assessments, including Oliver’s Battery, Hursley and Compton by using this link:* <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning-policy/winchester-district-local-plan-2018-2038-emerging/shlaa-strategic-housing-land-availability-assessment>

*The Royaldown document can be found here;* [https://www.dropbox.com/s/ooqsvjrwovshz8l/Royaldown%20Vision%20Document%20Final%20141020.pdf?dl=0&fbclid=IwAR3jmRU3J1CxbevbfO3sE0JMdHWd4ZRtWDnAhaivk7PbAX2xLLYsiGaYB4Y](https://www.dropbox.com/s/ooqsvjrwovshz8l/Royaldown%2520Vision%2520Document%2520Final%2520141020.pdf?dl=0&fbclid=IwAR3jmRU3J1CxbevbfO3sE0JMdHWd4ZRtWDnAhaivk7PbAX2xLLYsiGaYB4Y)