

SAVE CLAYGATE GREEN BELT



WHO, WHY, HOW and WHAT

THE SAVE CLAYGATE GREEN BELT CAMPAIGN

As concerned locals, we launched our campaign three months ago. Since then, we have gained many new supporters, and we thought we should provide more information about the campaign.

Who we are

Our campaign is being run by a committee, mostly consisting of those who launched the campaign in March:

Michael Collon	Planning advice, CPC rep
Roger Hargreaves	Infrastructure, research
Acelle Idrissova	Campaign management
Ken Kilmister	External collaboration
Ben Miles	Website, design
Michael Phillips	Planning advice
David Walker-Smith	Local communications
Joe Walton	PR

We are all Claygate residents. Our campaign manager organizes and coordinates us, but we don't have a leader or chairman. We make decisions collectively or by delegating to specific committee members. Committee members frequently take on work outside our remits – we aren't dogmatic about who does what, so long as it gets done well and quickly.

We would like to recruit additional committee members to strengthen our array of skills and we would especially value younger members under the age of 40. (If interested, just drop a WhatsApp to SCGB on 07427 876154.)

Additionally, we have an increasing number of volunteers who help us on specific tasks, from leaflet drops to legal research. This help is invaluable and you will see calls for volunteers on this WhatsApp group.



Why we think this is important

- We are seeing the warning signs of a tsunami of planning applications to build on our Green Belt
- We love our village – its character, its separateness, its uniqueness and the richness of its natural surroundings
- The Green Belt around Claygate contributes strongly to all those things
- Because of all that, we oppose development on the Green Belt immediately around Claygate
- All of our Green Belt is important, and we want to involve people from across the village in its defence
- We are neutral as between political parties
- We are not anti-housing, and we understand the need for affordable housing – but the current system is geared to producing developer profits not affordable homes, and we aren't convinced that developing our Green Belt is the only way to have more affordable homes

How the campaign has grown

Building support is crucial for success

- We have engaged the support of our Parish Council and our local MP
- Our newly-elected East Surrey Councillors all committed to protect the Green Belt in pre-election promises
- We have engaged CPRE and numerous other national and Surrey non-government organizations

We have raised awareness

- This WhatsApp group has expanded to 220 members and over 1,700 people have already signed our petition
- We launched our website at www.saveclaygategreenbelt.com
- We have so far published seven bulletins to increase awareness
- We are visible on Facebook and Instagram

Planning is about detail – decisions are made on policies

- We have recruited top tier planning talent to our committee
- We have analysed the planning rules, identified the key ones, and devised a policy-based strategy for contesting applications
- We have taken advice from the leaders of the Raleigh Drive and Thames Ditton protests so we don't reinvent the wheel
- We have developed nature-friendly alternatives for the Loseberry Farm site, and will discuss them with The Crown Estate

Small is better

- The core group of the campaign is small, but we use that as an advantage
- We try to decide things fast and then act fast too
- We know we will make the occasional mistake (it's our first time) but that's worth it to avoid bureaucracy

What can I do to help?

- On WhatsApp, cascade all our key messages (those coming from SCGB) to all your friends in the village, and urge them to cascade in turn
- If this message has been forwarded to you, join the SCGB group to get future messages first hand (contact us on 07427 876154)
- Join our committee or volunteer (message us at 07427 876154)
- And come to the **Village Meeting on 16th July – Holy Trinity Church at 7:30 pm**