

# Villagers' fears grow over plans for new airport workers' homes

PEOPLE in Pulborough are concerned about an increase in development in the village because of the proposed expansion of Gatwick Airport.

A neighbourhood plan is being developed to give some control over future building.

And a survey is being organised to ask for people's views which will hit doormats in Pulborough over the next week.

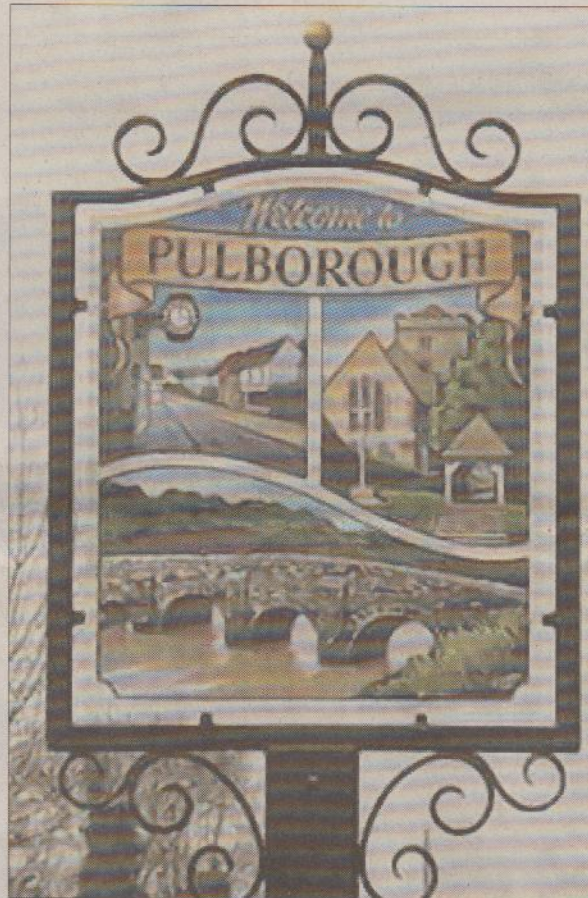
Richard Keatley, chairman of the neighbourhood plan committee said: "Pulborough has taken about 500 new houses since 2000 and many people think that's enough.

"However we realise we have to take some more and we want to know where people think they ought to go and what we should get in return.

"That's what the neighbourhood plan survey is all about, and why residents should seize the opportunity to have their say."

Various concerns of residents have already been identified including a population increase, not enough younger people in the village, an overloaded sewage and drainage systems, bad pavements and more traffic on inadequate roads.

David Hurst, a director of Pulborough Community Partnership, said: "According to Horsham's Local Plan, Pulborough, along with other villages, has to take some more houses but the proposed Gatwick expansion means it's even more important that people tell us what future



they want for the village.

"Another runway at Gatwick will mean thousands of extra staff plus all the support services, and they'll all have to live somewhere.

"If it goes ahead, it's likely that Pulborough and the other villages may have to take far more houses than are allocated in the current Horsham plan."

Ray Qusted, chairman of Pulborough Parish Council said: "We are going through the neighbourhood plan process, spending a lot of time and money, to give us some protection against uncontrolled development and ensure we receive our full levy entitlement.

"The survey is important so I'm urging people to fill it in. We want them back by September 5 so we have ammunition to fight for what the people want.

"If you don't do the survey," he added, "Don't come complaining if you don't like what happens."

The parish council's survey will be delivered to every house in Pulborough parish over the next week.

There will be parish councillors and other volunteers at various points, including supermarkets, to answer questions and to collect completed surveys.

"Any Pulborough resident can complete it," said Richard Keatley, "And we are especially keen to hear from young people and working people with families. They are the ones that will have to live with whatever happens in the next 15 years.

"We will start giving results at the Harvest Fair at the end of September."

More information is available on [www.pulboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.pulboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk) and follow the Neighbourhood Plan team on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/PulboroughNP](http://www.facebook.com/PulboroughNP) and Twitter @PulboroughNP.