

Do you care about Pulborough?

People in Pulborough are concerned about more development coming to the village, including the urbanisation resulting from the proposed expansion of Gatwick Airport. A neighbourhood plan is being developed to give some control over future building and a survey to ask for people's views 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 population increase, not enough younger people, overloaded sewage and drainage systems, bad pavements and more traffic on inadequate roads.

David Hurst, a director of Pulborough Community Partnership, commented "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 Quested, 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 5th** 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.