

---

It is clearly the case that there are parts of Crews Hill that can be regarded as brownfield sites and / or suitable for residential development.

These are :

--[if !supportLists]--> 1) <!--[endif]-->The land to the west of Theobalds Park Road just before the corner when it becomes Cattlegate Road

--[if !supportLists]--> 2) <!--[endif]-->The land to the east of Theobalds Park Road between Whitewebbs Road, and Wildwoods Garden Centre. This is currently occupied by scrap metal dealers and a car storage facility neither of which business fit into the horticultural focus of the rest of Crews Hill and are either operating outside local planning regulations or if with permission this was clearly given in error. These businesses contribute to heavy lorry traffic which is already too much for local roads to cope with.

--[if !supportLists]--> 3) <!--[endif]-->The land formerly occupied by Sloeman's Farm house and outbuildings on Whitewebbs Road.

Whilst the Crews Hill Placemaking Vision makes no direct reference to the scale of any proposed residential building it is widely understood that the intention is to take large tracts of greenbelt land for building of up to 3,000 homes. This represents a wholesale destruction of the neighbourhood and is as unsustainable as it is short-sighted.

If the rationale is to provide housing for the current generation of local people what happens when that generation reproduces? Does the expansion of Greater London continue until it absorbs most of Hertfordshire?

This proposal should be massively scaled back to be within the capability of existing local roads and other facilities to cope with it.

No amount of fanciful window dressing – “transforming the arc of open spaces around the edge of the Borough's urban area as a whole into a world leading outdoor cultural and leisure destination” – to quote one example, will disguise this plan as anything other than a green belt land grab which will irreparably damage Crews Hill and the community that lives there.

The plan should therefore be fundamentally re-thought and down-scaled.