

Save Claygate's Green Belt Public Meeting - 16 July 2026

Key Messages and Action Points

- **The threat is borough-wide, not site-specific.** Development pressures are affecting multiple Green Belt sites across Elmbridge and neighbouring areas, including Kingston.
- **Preparation must start now.** Once a planning application is submitted, timescales become very tight. Evidence, expertise and campaign structures need to be in place beforehand.
- **Strong objections are more important than large numbers of objections.** Planning decisions are influenced by relevant, evidence-based objections that address policy, infrastructure and environmental impacts.
Note: Guidance will be provided once any applications have been submitted.
- **Infrastructure is likely to be the strongest area of challenge.** Concerns include roads, traffic, water supply, sewerage capacity, utilities and the cumulative impact of multiple developments.
- **Affordable housing claims should be scrutinised carefully.** Concerns were raised that so-called affordable housing is often unaffordable locally and that social housing provision can be limited.
- **Green Belt loss affects the whole community.** The campaign should challenge the narrative that the choice is simply between housing and Green Belt land.
- **Environmental and biodiversity issues matter.** Wildlife, habitats and biodiversity proposals should be examined closely and supported by ecological expertise.
- **The Local Plan situation creates risk.** The absence of an adopted Local Plan increases vulnerability to speculative development proposals. See [Elmbridge Council Website](#) for details.
- **Success will require collaboration.** The campaign needs skilled volunteers, political support, strong evidence, funding and alliances with other groups facing similar issues.

Call to Action

1. Join the campaign

- Sign up to the [Parish Council mailing list](#) and stay informed
- Sign up to the [Save Claygate Green Belt](#) campaign
- Encourage neighbours and local organisations to get involved.

2. Share your expertise

- The Parish Council is seeking volunteers with experience in:
 - Planning and planning policy
 - Traffic and transport
 - Ecology and biodiversity
 - Water and sewerage infrastructure

If you have relevant skills / expertise please get in touch:

clerk@claygateparishcouncil.gov.uk

3. Gather evidence

- Help identify local infrastructure constraints, environmental impacts and community concerns.
- Monitor activity at potential development sites.

4. Engage politically

- Start writing now with your views and concerns to councillors, MPs and government ministers.
- Attend public meetings and consultations.
- Submit your comments / objections during the consultation period for any planning applications (Guidance will be provided).

5. Build alliances

- Connect with other residents' groups and Green Belt campaigns across Elmbridge and neighbouring areas.

6. Support the fighting fund

- Specialist planning, environmental and technical advice may be required.
- Financial contributions will help ensure the community can respond effectively to future applications.

Click here to contribute to the [Save Claygate Green Belt Fighting Fund](#)

Campaign Objective

Protect Elmbridge's Green Belt by building an informed, evidence-led, borough-wide campaign that challenges unsuitable development and ensures any future planning applications are subjected to the highest level of scrutiny.