

Plan 'will be called in' if it's approved

THE application to build 1,800 new homes at Dunsfold Aerodrome will be called in by the Secretary of State if it is approved by Waverley Borough Council (WBC), according to the MP for Guildford and Cranleigh.

Anne Milton said she has 'great concerns' about the proposals, in relation to flooding, sewage, water supply and roads.

Last December the owner

of the aerodrome, Trinity College, Cambridge, and its partner, The Rutland Group, submitted a planning application, which has attracted thousands of objections.

The land has been earmarked for even more homes, 2,600, in Waverley Borough Council's draft local plan, which states that the 'benefits outweigh any concerns'.

Mrs Milton said this week:

"The position is that 11 parish councils put in a request to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to have the planning application called in. I have confirmed that the department got that request. I've written to the minister highlighting concerns about the application.

"The department now liaises closely with WBC planning officers and they will ask

to see officers' recommendations on the application so that they are kept abreast of what direction they might go, but the application is not called in until WBC makes a decision."

If the application is rejected by the council, the DCLG will not become involved, according to the MP.

"The call-in has to happen after Waverley Borough Council makes a decision but

prior to the council notifying that applicant," she said.

"If they approve it, the application will be called in."

According to a parliamentary briefing note from July this year, the secretary of state, currently Sajid Javid, is under no legal obligation to use his call-in powers.

However, guidelines say that cases called in include those that 'could have significant effects beyond their

immediate locality.' "It does fulfil the criteria," said Mrs Milton. "I'm sure it does."

She added: "I'm concerned about infrastructure – not only roads but flooding concerns and concerns about sewage and water supply in the area. The impact on the A281 will be significant."

A decision by the council is expected soon.

■ Turn to page 4 for more on the Dunsfold application.