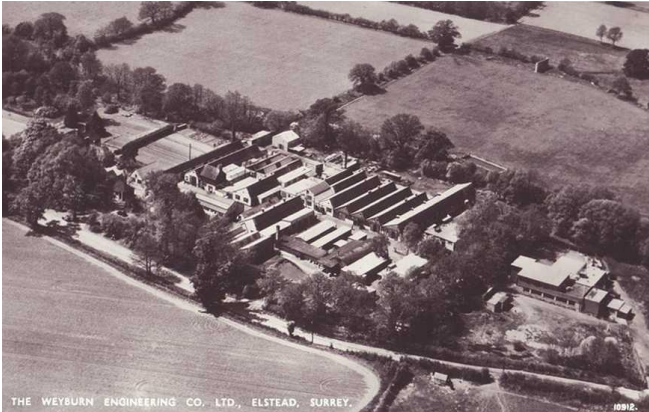


WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT WEYBURN?

The business was founded by Hamilton Gordon in 1913 and named Weyburn. Rapidly developing a reputation for producing quality machined parts Weyburn became a public company in 1935 and managed a workforce of over 500 during the Second World War when it produced camshafts for fighter aircraft and tanks.



Continued success saw expansion including the establishment of subsidiaries in America, Europe and elsewhere in the UK during the 1970s. In 1980 the firm in taking over a German company was renamed Weyburn-Bartel, and by the time it was bought by Federal-Mogul in 1998 had been in the hands of two other owners.

In 2007 the American owners of the Elstead engineering works announced its closure despite being a profitable arm of the then ailing US auto parts supplier Federal –Mogul.



The Weyburn Works was by far the biggest employer in the Elstead area. Some of its ex-employees still live or have relatives in the area. Others have scattered to the far ends of the world including one now living in Ulanbaatar, Mongolia. Thanks for the aerial postcard Toby!

WHAT NOW?

The once busy Weyburn Works is now completely derelict and the site is very contaminated with industrial waste.

The owners have considered re-development since it closed but not for industrial use. One proposal was for a mixture of housing, care facilities and some employment but no application for planning was submitted.

Now there is a proposal from Linden Homes for a housing estate of 74 homes. They held an exhibition on December 17th which was very well attended. For anybody who did not see the exhibition the display material can be seen on the *ELSTEAD ONLINE* website, with other information about the proposals.



Although a brown field industrial site Weyburn is in the Green Belt and is close to a Special Protected Area on Royal Common. A change of use to Housing is not a certainty, in spite of the pressure on Waverley to build more homes in the Borough. Another consideration is the impact that a single large development would have on education, medical facilities and other services in Elstead and Peper Harow.

Linden Homes asked everybody to fill in a questionnaire and they will study the results before submitting a planning application in the New Year. They have a website for the Weyburn development, with an online feedback form for comments: <http://www.lindenhomes.co.uk/community/surrey/weyburn-works-elstead>.

The Parish Council Elstead & Weyburn Neighbourhood Plan Group has formed a working group to study the Weyburn proposals before holding discussions with Linden Homes in early 2015.