



Wallington Village Community Association

Registered Charity No. 1038479

www.wvca.co.uk

Councillor DCS Swanbrow
LDF SG Chairman
Fareham Borough Council
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(Dear Councillor Swanbrow)

NORTH OF FAREHAM SDA – VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE

1. Over recent months, members of the Community Liaison Group (CLG) have become increasingly disillusioned with the manner in which the Core Strategy submission and the North of Fareham Strategic Development Area (SDA) proposal in particular, are being taken forward by Fareham Borough Council (FBC).
2. It is our collective view, that FBC have taken scant regard of the issues and concerns raised in the CLG forum over the past 18 months, very few of which have been properly documented. Specifically, it is now abundantly clear that FBC has failed to honour the previously agreed CLG TOR's namely to "... Create a forum for the discussion and resolution of key issues ..." and to "inform the Project Board of the respective views and concerns of the local communities ..."
(TOR Bullet points 1 and 2 refer)
3. These concerns over the lack of proper public consultation were re-enforced by the complete lack of substantive debate at the Council Meeting on 18 Nov at which the Core Strategy was endorsed and were exacerbated by the FBC Press Release of 16 December which announced the withdrawal of the online "Corporate Vision Questionnaire" (which included a specific question asking participants whether they supported the SDA, or not).
4. This brazen attempt to ignore and thus cynically manipulate, Public Opinion by disregarding the Questionnaire inputs made thus far (presumably because the results were not to the Council's liking), is frankly nothing short of disgraceful and has quite rightly, been ridiculed in the local press. The Questionnaire was re-launched on 4 January 2011, but fails to ask the simple question "**Do You support the proposed SDA – Yes/No**"; accordingly, it is yet another missed Consultation opportunity and serves to highlight FBC's all too obvious determination to impose this unwanted and massive "New Town" development on the local Communities/Neighbourhoods, whether they want it or not. It would appear that news of the Localism Bill and the need to reach a consensus with local Community Groups, has yet to reach Fareham!.

5. CLG members have similar concerns over the unbalanced manner in which the North of Fareham SDA is being portrayed, a prime example of which is the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section on the FBC Website. This document makes no mention of the building on prime farmland and fails to address the massive traffic congestion that the New Town will generate. Additionally, it totally ignores the fact that the infrastructure requirements have yet to be even costed, let alone funded and omits the key fact that the primary access road has been deferred for 5 years. In similar vein and like the Core Strategy submission itself, there is an overriding presumption in support of the SDA and absolutely no consideration of the alternative options.
6. Given that FBC has not seen fit to hold a CLG meeting since July 2010 and with no future meetings planned, you should be aware that the Community Groups held their own meeting earlier this month. At that meeting the Community Groups decided against resigning “en masse” from the CLG process at this juncture, **but recorded instead a unanimous Vote of “No – Confidence” over the manner in which FBC has both handled and consulted on the SDA thus far.**
7. “Localism” is indeed a broad Church and whilst the Bill is not yet on the Statue Book, its implications are however perfectly clear and have been signalled well in advance. Perhaps you will be kind enough to inform the Local Community Groups when FBC intend to take heed of its implications.

David Walton

For:

Wallington Village Community Association
The Fareham Society
The Wickham Society
Wickham Parish Council
Knowle Village Residents Association
Funtley Village Residents Association

Cc:

Grant Shapps MP (Minister of State – Housing and Local Government)
Mark Hoban MP
Cllr Ken Thornber (Leader, HCC)
Cllr John Bryant (HCC)
Cllr Ray Ellis (HCC)
Cllr Sean Woodward (Leader, FBC)
Cllr John Bryant (FBC)
Cllr Pam Bryant (FBC)
Cllr Katrina Trott (FBC)
Cllr Paul Whittle (FBC)
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The Editor: Portsmouth Evening News