Elaine Bonnon

From: Chris Smith [redacted]
Sent: 01 November 2013 20:50
To: LDF
Subject: Response to South Wonston Village Design Statement (VDS)

Response to South Wonston Village Design Statement (VDS)

The draft VDS purports to represent the Community's views but in my opinion they are the views of a very limited number of people. Community involvement has been minimal with large interested groups, e.g. employers, youth, school etc. overlooked.

Publicity aimed at engaging support has been ineffective evidenced by the fact that at the only public meeting held there were only four residents in attendance.

The draft VDS refers to a questionnaire (August 2011) and that the VDS was available on the SWPC website. The draft was not available on the website at that time, only the old 2008 plan.

The published draft has not been seen by the Community and therefore the Community has had no opportunity to input to it. There were statements made indication a draft would be available but this did not happen. Further at a meeting of the Parish Council on 8 April 2013 it was agreed *"Cllr Peal confirmed that Mr Opacic of WCC Forward Planning had identified further adjustments needed to the document. The public meeting is scheduled for Monday 3rd June, 7.30pm at the Village Hall."* The meeting did not take place and so Community involvement was avoided.

The first the Village received any official notice of this consultation was 2nd October when the draft was put to consultation by the Winchester City Council. One presumes that this stage should only be reached following an effective community involvement and in my opinion this did not happen.

Further notice of this consultation would be overlooked as I believe it was only published on two noticeboards and effectively lost amongst other notices. The SWPC did put up more notices a couple of weeks into the consultation period following representations at a SWPC meeting but in my opinion this was too late to ensure engagement.

For a VDS to be credible then its production needs to have involvement from key individuals in the community with the relevant skills, experience and confidence. There should be full community consultation and involvement and this is important. The VDS shouldn't be produced by a small and closed group as has occurred here.

Any data used is at least 2 years old and in view of the overall lack of input from community stakeholders, e.g. church, school (this would have made a great school project) youth groups, business etc. this draft is not representative of the community.

Much is made of the open views in South Wonston. These views are outside of the settlement boundary where there is no presumption of development. These views are unavailable to the majority of the village.

The draft seeks to restrict garden development. There is a wealth of precedent supporting development of gardens subject to meeting all planning requirements including impact on neighbours and national policy is sufficient in this respect. All restrictive references should be removed and substituted with indications of what

is acceptable, rather than what is not acceptable. It must be better to use land within the development boundary rather in the surrounding countryside.

May I suggest the draft is returned for local input and consultation and then resubmitted for the City consultation?

I am not satisfied it should become a supplementary planning document for the reasons above.

C Smith

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