

Your ref SO/eb
My ref 1093

Wickham
Hampshire
PO17 5HD

Mr Steve Opacic
Head of Strategic Planning
Winchester City

16th July 2012

Dear Mr Opacic

Development in Wickham and the District Core Strategy

I have already sent in my submission to the Winchester District Local Plan but I am writing now to make my concern felt that in spite of these careful and rigorous procedures for the Joint Core Strategy, it appears that developers may be considering making a planning application now to build 250 houses in Wickham between Mill Lane, Blind Lane and the Winchester Road. This would be before any Core Strategy decision about how many, where and what kind of houses was made (and probably not expected till 2013/14) after the thorough examination process by the independent Planning Inspector. It does seem completely inappropriate that any big decision should be made before this time.

On July 10th, a meeting was held in Wickham, organised by these "would be" developers. Their original intention was to discover what kind of development the village would like but they faced considerable opposition. This has already been shown in the "workshop meeting" of 2008 and the Blueprint Consultation of 2010.

Of course there must be some provision for affordable housing and others using infill sites, brownfield

sites and even perhaps some of the presently protected greenfield sites but any decision should wait for the new proper procedure. All factors must be considered including the absolute necessity of improving the infrastructure which even now is not available for existing buildings, i.e. water and sewage arrangements, roads and other related traffic problems. The effect of the 4000 house development envisaged by Fareham Borough Council north of the M27 must be taken seriously.

Yet again, this month's bad weather has shown up the inadequacy of the present drainage systems. The water pouring off the hill north of Wickham, which has a clay subsoil, mixes with sewage and dirty water from the houses built north of Wickham in the last 50 years. Raw sewage etc rises above manholes (the old Victory Hall) and elsewhere - surely a health hazard!

The sophisticated regulations, which are part of the modern planning system are meant to ~~give~~ ^{let} all participants ~~to~~ know their views are fully taken into account. Please help this to happen.

Yours sincerely

