

Dear WEAG Supporters

Planning Applications Committee Meeting Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July

The Surrey Heath Borough Council, Council Chamber was standing room only with over 100 residents of West End showing the strength of their opposition to large scale proposed developments in the village.

The William Lacey application Ref.14/0532 for 84 houses South of King's Road was the first to be considered. Village representatives Guy Consterdine, Diane Doney and Charlotte Waters made a comprehensive address with reasoned arguments to the Committee including statements on access and that the residents' \*'other reasons' for objection should form part of the REFUSAL.

The planning officer stood his ground and his recommendation for REFUSAL, based on the Core Strategy and other planning documents, was carried by the Planning Applications Committee. This application has already gone to appeal based on planning policy only, whilst residents' views were largely dismissed. Should the developer's arguments for higher housing targets win through Surrey Heath Borough Council will be left defenceless, as we discussed at Friday's Public Meeting.

Next was the Taylor Wimpey application Ref. 14/0594 for 85 houses North of Beldam Bridge Road. Beulah Kingston and Diane Doney made reasoned speeches and asked that the residents' \*'other reasons' for objection be included as part of the REFUSAL, which is solely on planning policy. Edmund Bain also made representation on this application. Again, the Planning Officer's recommendations were carried by the Planning Applications Committee.

Remember \* 'other reasons' for objection included destroying the rural character of the village, unsustainable - inadequate infrastructure including schools, GP practice and other local services, severe traffic generation, highway safety and parking, ecology, flood risk - just to mention some. So much that is included in the Core Strategy policies on these issues were simply swept under the carpet.

Mr Wolf representing Taylor Wimpey spoke very confidentially about their contention on the BC's inability to provide sufficient housing to meet housing targets.

Then came consideration on the 60-bed Nursing Home application for Streets Heath. Both Ian Allard and James Pearce made substantial and knowledgeable speeches pointing out the inadequacies of the drainage system and dangers of run-off flooding in the area. The impact of traffic and parking in a narrow lane including concerns about the safety of pedestrians and especially children who use this lane on route to and from both schools and to the corner shop, the considerable affect on the GP practice and last but not least the sheer scale of the building, a monster completely out of proportion to the site and the landscape.

Despite considered and appropriate questioned from some members of the Planning Applications Committee who were familiar with West End or had experience with problems with Care Homes in their area the vote of 9-5 was in favour of building the Nursing Home.

Councillor Adrian Page West End ward, without a vote, made a good representation on all of the planning applications under consideration, stating that he was in accord with the views of the West End speakers, including the stated concerns of resident. He made a request that the Nursing Home decision be deferred - unfortunately, this was not carried.

We must concentrate on the positive and continue with our efforts to protect our rural village for posterity.

Best regards

Beulah Kingston

Chair West End Action Group

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