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LOCAL NEWS

Planning Roundup

The ERA planning subcommittee

Havant and Horndean Roads

These roads are designated 'Roads with Special Character' in the Local Plan on account of their magnificent trees.

A large villa, 97 Havant Road, has been sold to a developer. A 'For Sale' sign went up one day with viewing on a specific day a little later. Before anybody had even registered this, the sale had gone through and the garden had been decimated. This included the bulldozing of several large Horse Chestnut trees and the hedge on the front boundary as well as many other trees in the back garden. The Horse Chestnuts and hedge formed an important part of the Havant Road street scene and would have had TPO's placed upon them if anybody had realised the threat in time to act.



After the bulldozer at 97 Havant Road

A few months earlier, a 'For Sale' sign went up at 58 Horndean Road and, suspecting a threat from development, TPO's were placed on a number of trees. At a stormy meeting at HBC's Civic Offices, these TPO's were confirmed despite objections from the owners of the property.

These two cases illustrate how continued vigilance is essential to preserve our very special environment.

Bridgefoot Path

The application by Hampshire County Council to fell a Willow on Bridgefoot Path has been withdrawn. The tree has been very badly pruned in the past but still has high amenity value forming part of a line of Willows along the edge of the Millpond.

Hermitage development

The ERA has objected to the application by developers, KingsOak - a division of the giant developer Barratts, to fell four large trees, ironically oaks, in order to extend the SuDS balancing pond - see page 8.

Havant Road Licence Application

The second application by the Spar shop at 21-25 Havant Road for a drinks licence has been granted by HBC in spite of substantial local opposition.

Tesco Havant

The application by Tesco to rebuild its Havant store twice the present size is in abeyance whilst Tesco's management prepare answers to questions about non-food items and the large number of objections received. It will now not go before the Development Control Committee before January 2007 at the earliest. Tesco Emsworth have permission for their cash machine.

Western Parade

An application to replace the bungalow at 7 Western Parade with a three storey house across the full width of the site has been rejected on the grounds of 'over development'. Within one week of this decision, another application was submitted for a slightly smaller house. The ERA is supporting local residents in objecting on the grounds that it is still too large. Chichester Harbour Conservancy also has to consider the impact on the view from the water.

Record Road

The application to build two houses in the garden behind No. 4 Record Road has been allowed on appeal to the Secretary of State.

Letters to the Editor (Continued from page 2)

Beware! There's a Development coming near YOU!

At the ERA's Quarterly General Meeting, Gwen Andrews, Managing Director of Havant Borough Council, gave a very enlightening presentation on future development in Havant Borough.

The meeting was informed that the Treasury required the South East of England, including Havant, to generate them more money. To achieve this, faster economic growth is required. More business development will mean more jobs, hence more people, leading to more homes.

Things are not as they initially appear; the need for housing is not the driver! We will all be affected in different ways but one thing is sure; there are big changes ahead. How will they affect your natural and built environments? Will they put further strain on our infrastructure and services?

Don't rely on HBC's Elected Members or Officers to stop the march of "progress". The combination of Government strategy and developers looking for rich pickings is slowly but surely changing your VILLAGE into a TOWN (i.e. suburban into urban). With it comes less open space, inappropriate housing density, increased traffic, increased pollution and service failures. There will be more and more headlines referring to extensive flooding, traffic chaos, power cuts, lack of health facilities, water shortage, etc. This may eventually force you to move!

In response to Howard Jacobs (letter in October 2006 issue), if we ever had control of our future, we don't now. Powers that be, hold all the cards!

What is the value of consultation; is it just to make us feel important? As stated by Chris Curry ('From the Chairman' October 2006 issue), development does not necessarily bring homes or employment for those already living in the area. Should the promise of affordable homes be taken at face value?

In the brochure "Planning Hampshire's Future" (Spring 2006) County and City Councillors were united to press the Government for increased investment in transport and other infrastructure. They were adamant that new development must not go ahead unless accompanied by the necessary infrastructure. There is as yet no sign of this finance for infrastructure.

Perhaps those groups elsewhere taking direct action; marching, obstructing traffic, living in trees, or living underground have got it right. It is clear to most people that the present strategy is surely destined to fail big time. Do we have to suffer this attack on our standard of life?

Chris Suter

Vast development in South Hampshire threatens the Solent

Richard Jannaway

An official report published this month (Scott Wilson Report 2006) said that the need for new waste water treatment infrastructure in South Hampshire is so great that if new facilities do not come online in time, then the location, timing and even the number of extra homes for the area may have to be changed.

It paints a grim picture of the Solent estuaries being polluted by wastewater from the 80,000 extra homes planned for this area.

It says that "even with the best available technology, the area's eight marine and coastal sites of international importance may be damaged because of the sheer increase in volume of treated effluent pouring into the Solent. This can lead to eutrophication - which effectively means ecosystems are starved of oxygen and choke to death."

The report also flags up that increased water abstraction to provide clean water for the new housing may also impact on the area's rivers and have a knock-on effect on coastal and marine sites.

Of the 80,000 homes, 'only' 6,301 are planned for Havant Borough but the combined effect of the massive development will be felt right along the coast and especially in enclosed waters such as Chichester Harbour.

This report concludes that the effects can only be mitigated with a vast investment in wastewater treatment and substantial funding will be needed from central government. The entire report is available on the internet - there is a link to it on the ERA website.

Planning Appeal - 3G Telecommunication Mast

Brendan Gibb-Gray

I am sorry to report that Hutchison 3G won its appeal against the decision of HBC Development Control Committee last December to refuse their application to locate a telecommunication mast on land adjacent to Lewis Road, Emsworth. After the decision to refuse was made, I undertook on behalf of HBC to explore possible alternative sites in Emsworth. Four other sites were suggested but Hutchison turned them all down on "technical" grounds, which was a big disappointment. I would like to thank residents of Lewis Road and Ward Crescent for the representation they made but in spite of our combined efforts and hard work, the appeal was allowed. I have copies of the Inspector's judgement if any resident would like to study his findings in full.

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