From: **Village Concerns** villageconcerns2016@gmail.com
Subject: Update 18
Date: 14 March 2017 at 12:46
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VC

Yesterday , March 13th, Wealden District Council held two Committee Meetings to discuss the Draft Local Plan.

To everyone's surprise, including Councillors, a briefing paper on the effects of pollution on the Ashdown Forest was distributed and a new housing allocation was issued at the start of the meeting. Both attached.

The Council are carrying out ongoing scientific studies to monitor the effects of pollution caused by Nitrogen Oxide emissions from cars on the Ashdown Forest. The latest studies, hot off the press, indicate that the damage is far greater than expected. See Briefing Paper.

It is now acknowledged that all future development across Wealden has to be assessed for its impact on the Ashdown Forest. Transport Modelling is being carried out.

As a consequence the Housing allocation in the Draft Local Plan, as of March 13th, has been reduced from 14,101 to 11,456. Development is to take place in areas which have the least impact on the Ashdown Forest.

See attached. Note the allocation is over and above planning permissions already given.

The really good news is that East Hoathly's allocation is now down to zero. We do not yet have any revised figures for Halland. We are still awaiting confirmation of the revised Development Boundary for East Hoathly.

However, we need to proceed cautiously. It does seem that in the short term, for East Hoathly, any development will be refused permission. However, longer term there are many hurdles to cross.

On March 22nd the Plan will go to Full Council. If it is approved it will then go

out to Consultation, May 8th to June 18th. Developers will have their say. Then to the Government's Planning Inspector for approval.

Thank you for all your support. It has been magnificent, a true indication of East Hoathly's community spirit.

The first battle has been won but we have not won the war. We need to be ready and alert.

We will keep you informed of any changes.

Below are links to the webcasts for the two meetings held on March 13th.

a) Local Plan Subcommittee starts at 10am
https://wealden.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/251652

b) Joint Planning Committee North and South

https://wealden.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/276218

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