**Nov 2014 – Post hearing letter to Funtley Residents**

Dear Resident,

The Examination in Public (EiP) of the Welborne Plan has just been completed. For the past six days, we have had the Planning Inspector Mr David Hogger examine in detail various aspects of the plan. We would like to thank him and his assistant Claire Jones-Hughes for the professional conduct of the hearings. The EiP covered areas of the Plan from consultation and community engagement, settlement buffers, health and education provision, transport including the M27 JT 10 options, green infrastructure, water, sewage provision and flooding, to the viability of the whole Welborne Plan. These were some of the key subjects which we as a local community group and residents were keen to have scrutinised in more detail, than we have been able to up to now.

Many of our key questions, for example the validity of the evidence base on which Fareham Borough Council base their plan on, the funding of this whole scheme, its viability and whether it is actually needed to meet Fareham's housing needs and is it really the best option to meet those needs, have still not been answered!

Mr Hogger has asked Fareham Borough Council (FBC) to provide additional information and evidence on the Welborne Plan, following up from the hearings. This information will be officially posted on the Welborne page of FBC's website (http://www.fareham.gov.uk/planning/new\_community/welbornesubmission.aspx - date to be advised) and we will have two weeks to make comments on this. The Inspector Mr Hogger will then weigh up all the evidence in front of him and then decide whether a further EiP is required. If not, he will publish his conclusions sometime in the New Year. We will keep you posted of that date.

How did the enquiry go from our perspective? I feel that the community groups collectively did a superb job in a very professional way, representing local residents concerns in how we continually pointed out the evidence shortfall in the Welborne Plan and its lack of agreed funding and viability. For those of you who were able to attend I hope that was your impression too. I don't think we could have done much more, taking into account FBC's habit of presenting information at the very last minute, giving us very little time to scrutinise it and their continual and deliberate strategy of deferring the major decisions to a later date e.g. transport and their preferred option for the M27 Junction 10. The council has spent over £2 million to date on the Welborne enquiry, whereas we have given up our valuable time and effort. In November 2005 at the Funtley Social Club, I hosted our first public meeting against this new proposed development. Nine years & £2 million later we are still asking many of the same questions.

Along with our community partners the Fareham Society, the Campaign to Protect Rural England CPRE (Hampshire branch), Knowle Village Residents Association, the Wickham Society and Wallington Village Community Association we will continue our campaign against Welborne.

There have been many people who have taken the time over many weeks, months and in some cases years and contributed significantly to our campaign against Welborne. In particular we would like to acknowledge the very special effort and contribution made by Brenda Clapperton (Fareham Society), Caroline Dibden (CPRE), David Walton (Wallington), Michael Carter (Wickham Society) and Sheila Chambers (Knowle). We also acknowledge the contributions from Cllr Katrina Trott and Cllr Paul Whittle and Cllrs Pam & John Bryant at the hearings.

From a Funtley perspective I would like to personally thank our committee - Jason Mudge, Ro Petrazzini, Andy & Caren Ransom, Ruth & Adrian Saunders, Elaine & Andy Tower and Helen Hallett and who have done a fabulous job. We would also like to thank Shaun Cunningham, Stu Tennant and Mike Stephenson for their contributions and support. The tremendous hard work done over the last year or so, from writing letters and press articles, engaging with the press and TV, two public meetings in November 2013 & March 2014, reading a huge number of complex planning documents, a comprehensive submission to the Inspector (April 2014), the public demonstration on the first day of the enquiry, to our attendance at all of the sessions at the EiP is a credit to everyone who has participated. The committee collectively has spent hundreds of hours on this whole process, taking time out from family and work.

Our thanks in particular should go to Jason Mudge who organised the very successful public demonstration held on Wednesday 15th October. Jason liaised directly with the police. The fact that the demonstration was such a success was due to the excellent organisation, the fantastic turnout from residents of Funtley, North Fareham, Knowle & Wickham, the exemplary, peaceful and good natured behaviour of the protestors and the professionalism of the police. The police personally contacted Jason to thank him for the excellent conduct of the demonstration. There was no involvement or intervention from Fareham Borough Council.

Finally none of this would have been possible without the backing of our local community who have continuously shown and demonstrated their overwhelming support. We thank you for that.

We will continue to keep you updated.

Yours sincerely,

Ed Morell

Chair

Funtley Village Society