

'There are still unresolved issues with Welborne'

Edward Morell, from the Funtley Village Society, gives details of a recent meeting in which plans for a proposed new town north of Fareham were debated

It was on November 3, 2005 that a public meeting was held at Funtley Social Club regarding what is now known as the Welborne Plan - 10,000 houses to be built north of Fareham.

Last week, on Monday November 18, in a packed public meeting with more than 70 attendees including cllrs John Bryant and Peter Latham, the Funtley Village Society gave their latest update on this controversial proposed development.

The meeting included speakers David Walton, from Wallington Village Community Association, Brenda Clapperton, of the Fareham Society, as well as contributions from Caroline Dibden from Campaign to Protect Rural England, Hampshire, Michael Carter from the Wickham Society and Sheila Chambers from Knowle Village Residents' Association.

As was re-iterated during the meeting, many of the fundamental issues outlined



DEBATE The meeting at Funtley Social Club to discuss plans for a new town called Welborne

in 2005 are still unresolved in 2013 - traffic congestion, infrastructure funding, evaluation of downstream flooding risk and maintaining the existence and character of existing settlements such as Funtley, Knowle village and Wickham.

Speaker after speaker

expressed their frustration at the lack of detail at this very late stage in the planning process, especially as Fareham Borough Council has a timetable to go to an examination in public with the Planning Inspectorate next summer.

Almost £1m has been spent

so far on the Welborne plan (£2 million by the end of the 2013/14 financial year according to Fareham Borough Council) and still there are no specific and budgeted plans on transport, infrastructure, etc.

Many attendees expressed their concern that the public would have a very limited period of time to scrutinise the final plans, if the council is to keep to this timetable.

The meeting also expressed its concern that it felt there was a conflict of interest as far as Cllr Séan Woodward was concerned in his roles as executive leader of Fareham Borough Council, chairman of PUSH (Partnership for Urban South Hampshire) and as executive member for Hampshire County Council for economy, transport and environment.

With all three roles having a critical influence on the Welborne Plan, how can there not be a conflict of interest?

Funtley Village Society, along with its fellow communities, will continue to press the council for full disclosure of all required and relevant information pertinent to this proposed development, which will impact on the whole of Fareham Borough and the surrounding areas.

Further information of the meeting is available on funtleyvillagesociety.org.uk