

Deputation for PUSH Meeting, Thurs 19th March 2009

My group is the Botley Parish Action Group, and together with the Durley and Curdrige Parishes Action Group, we are opposing the SDA N/NE of Hedge End. We thus cover both the Eastleigh and the Winchester sides of the SDA search area. We have in the short time of our existence made representations in the form of technical presentations or formal complaints to the Secretary of State, our MP, Chris Huhne, Hampshire County Council and Eastleigh Borough Council, as well as the organisation here this evening. These cover the concerns of the residents we represent, and include some real anger about the lack of public consultation, as well as strong feelings about ecological, sustainability and infrastructure issues.

You should all have received 3 papers from us. Two of these list some good technical reasons for the SDA to be abandoned and the other shows some of the opponents to the SDA and extracts from their statements.

Since you probably have them in front of you, I don't need to say any more about them.

Instead, I'd like to tell you what we think about the whole process, then I'd like to pose some questions which we believe our group and residents in general are deserving of answers from PUSH.

The site of the SDA is not far off the worst that could be chosen in South Hampshire.

It is naturally beautiful, rolling countryside with a major tributary to the Upper Hamble river. It supports an abundance of wild life, and is a much needed area for peoples' leisure pursuits. It carries high grade farmland and a golf course.

In the process of choosing the site, no thought has been given to the feasibility of the development, and worse still, it is inconceivable for anyone to believe that it could be truly sustainable.

In fact, we have already expressed our concern over the Integrated Water Management study and the legitimate issues raised in that study which seem to have attracted a "develop regardless" stance from PUSH.

Similar concerns pertain to the apparent dismissal of the Sustainability Appraisal and the Landscape Sensitivity work.

We would like to ask this meeting why it is that PUSH continues to promote this SDA when so many parties oppose it, and when so many technical issues undermine it?

Secondly we would like to ask why PUSH is doing so little to challenge the government's ludicrous top down imposition for growth figures and housing allocation for the South East and South Hampshire in particular?

Thirdly, we would like to request that PUSH formally adopts a motion to prepare a contingency for alternative housing to this SDA allocation, on the basis that the site is either agreed by the stakeholders to be in the wrong place, or that the feasibility is unproven, or that the development on this site is shown to be unsustainable.

Thank you for listening, a copy of this statement can be obtained from myself or from our website.

S J Holden, Vice Chairman, BPAG. www.bpag.org.uk

19/3/09