

THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTORS RECOMMEND THE HBC LOCAL PLAN IS WITHDRAWN

The HBC Local Plan has been examined by the Inspectors, and their interim report has now been published. (see CR18 on www.havant.gov.uk/local-plan-examination)

It is a pretty damning document and highlights so many unresolved issues and outstanding problems that the Inspectors are recommending that the Local Plan be withdrawn to allow the shortcomings and issues to be resolved and corrected through a new consultation process, prior to being presented for a re-examination by the Inspectors.

We recommend you take a few minutes to have a look (it's only 11 pages) as it clearly reinforces how little regard your concerns and ours received.

The Inspectors state that the Plan did not receive the detailed consultations required by law, which fully vindicates your representatives' decision to take our Hayling Island case direct to the then Secretary of State for Housing Robert Jenrick MP. You can find the report on the homepage of www.saveourisland.org.uk

The dossier Save Our Island presented was clearly taken seriously by the Inspectors, as were our inputs provided during the week-long Inspectors' examination in July.

Key points made on Hayling Island include:

- The HBC Transport Assessment and Addendum are considered unsound. The summer weekend and tourist traffic should have been used as the primary traffic constraint, plus the capacity issues over time of the fixed single access route (A3023/bridge), and any mitigation options should have been based on that. **Unbelievably, Councillor Tim Pike told a meeting of the Havant Borough Residents' Alliance on 17 November that "the Inspectors are wrong."**
- The Rook Farm proposals must take account of and provide an agreed mitigation for wildlife protection and a sustainable road network.
- The housing proposals on the Beachfront must account for and provide a safe mitigation of the real flood risks. The Eastoke proposal at Creek Road seems to have already been deleted from the allocations. The remaining proposed sites must be linked closely to the Coastal Partners' Coastal Strategy due next year. We have provided a list of questions for Coastal Partners requiring answers to enable us all to understand the risks involved.

HBC have strongly rebuffed the Inspectors' recommendation to withdraw the Plan.

They are in an almost impossible situation which is primarily the result of the PUSH group of Local Councils choosing not to take a wide strategic view of the area's housing needs with a new city, or new towns with identities and work and leisure opportunities. Instead, the PUSH group chose the perceived low-cost option, and just distributed a housing target to each Council, who are in the process of handing large tracts of greenfield land to construct soulless housing dormitories. We now know some of these major sites may not prove sustainable.

HBC fear that if they withdraw the Plan they will be inundated with hundreds of planning applications as they do not have an adequate housing stock – this could be true. They are asking the Government to reconsider the target numbers, and other local councils to take some of the load. We also think that Waterlooville town centre, now almost a ghost town, could offer a solution, but that would require careful planning and a major compulsory purchase initiative to free up the brownfield sites.

Save Our Island, together with all the residents' representative groups, stand ready to work with HBC to find a sustainable way forward, **and would encourage HBC to follow the Inspectors' advice.**