

April 2022 Hayling Herald submission from Save Our Island

YOU MAY have missed this in the news, but on 11 March, your resident representatives – the same people who formed the Hayling Island Infrastructure Group over the past three years – attended the initial Havant Borough Council meeting on the changes required on the Hayling Island Transport Assessment Addendum. At the meeting, the constraints and issues were tabled – which were also raised by the Government Inspectors last year, and led to the withdrawal of the HBC Local Plan. Professor Nick Hounsell, our internationally recognised advisor, has been accepted into this group. The next stage will be a review of the parameters to be used to drive the remodelling of the Island's and the surrounding area's highway networks. We have requested that Flood Risk to these networks is added to the scope of the new Transport Assessment list, in line with the Inspectors' concerns.

We have advised HBC that far greater attention should be paid to the Rook Farm application by them and by the Statutory Authorities, to determine if Barratt have displayed the competence to be trusted with developments in this very sensitive and fragile environment, based on the following Barratt sites on the Island:

- The Oysters site had a very poor wildlife mitigation implementation and the SuDS drainage system is not maintained correctly.
- The Sinah Lane Site has an inadequately-sized replacement refuge which has already failed this winter for all the reasons predicted by local residents, and is neither established nor operational as required by legally-binding obligations. The major water table issue – influenced by the tidal location and the sub-surface groundwater flowing at 1.6 m beneath and rising to just 10cm below ground level in some places, before any rainfall – means that Barratt are proposing to build new homes on a bog/tidal marsh. Their surface water drainage solution has been challenged by the Local Flood Authority.
- Barratt claim to be doing their bit for biodiversity and wildlife preservation. However, the failure of the Sinah Lane Brent Geese Mitigation demonstrates that they do not have the commitment, technical expertise and project skills necessary to manage an internationally important refuge facility.
- The Rook Farm site presents similar problems with wildlife mitigation and surface water drainage, with the addition of a contentious and unresolved road network impact. Let's hope they are listening to the 1400 residents who have registered their objections.

And finally, we have called for HBC to initiate a detailed Stakeholder Engagement Process for the revised Local Plan to:

- a) Ensure the mistakes of the past are not repeated; and
- b) Begin rebuilding trust with the Community.