

SAVE OUR ISLAND ARTICLE FOR AUGUST 2023 HAYLING HERALD

YOU MAY HAVE MISSED two important items of interest during July, which are reported on below.

Residents' access to the Councillors on Development Projects

The Officers of Havant Borough Council recently prepared a proposal to change to residents' access to the Councillors on Development Projects. In effect, this proposal seriously restricted our ability to interact with the Committee and present opinions and objections.

A Planning Committee meeting was organised for 22 June 2023 to discuss the recommendations. Save Our Island, along with other interested parties, immediately wrote to the Leader of the Council expressing grave concerns about this event.

Fortunately, the Elected Councillors shared our views, and consequently the meeting was cancelled. Hopefully, the proposals will now never see the light of day. Of broader concern however, it seems clear that this proposal is aligned to a national strategy of the Civil Service to favour its own position to the detriment of the people they work for. Our misgivings on this matter have been communicated to Alan Mak MP.

Sinah Lane Development

The saga of the Sinah Lane development continues. In June's Hayling Herald we shared our concerns with the Council Leader and Councillors, as have many other people. The fact is that the lack of site management is raising alarm. In response to this situation, the developer has now engaged a consultancy firm (Cratus) with the intention that it will take over the relationship between the developer, the residents' liaison group and Havant Borough Council.

Any efforts to understand and resolve the issues are to be welcomed. However, it is still the case that the problems can all be laid at the developer's door due to non-compliance with the National Planning Policy Framework and the conditions agreed for this development.

It is likely that Cratus is unaware of the strategic issues at stake. However, the initial meeting with them scheduled in July should clarify what they bring to the party, and allow the residents' liaison group to determine the group structure moving forward.

Dave Parham