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Saturday, 29 January 2022

Dear Mr Scott,

We are writing to you as the Co-Chairs of Village Concerns, a local Action Group from East Hoathly with Halland Parish. We represent the views of over 200 supporters against the overdevelopment of our Parish.

Planning Committee South granted Outline Consent in July 2020 for 205 homes at Hesmond's Stud in East Hoathly. We were appalled by the level of debate that this matter was given in committee and that the Decision Notice did not reflect the views expressed in the planning committee meeting. We are aware that many of the councillors who took part in that meeting were also not happy with the outcome of the meeting. We remain convinced that the planning merits of this application are deeply unsound and that it should have been rejected. However, our only recourse was to challenge the decision on any legal flaws.

Village Concerns has now been granted permission for a Judicial Review Hearing on the decision to grant Outline Consent. When Justice Lang granted this permission, she did so on both the grounds of our claim and her wording strongly reflected the strength of our case. On the matter of housing mix, the claim also has the support of the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. Wealden District Council has already spent a considerable amount of public money on their defence of this Judicial Review.

We urge you to reconsider the Council's continued defence of this bad decision. Do not waste any more public money on this matter.

We have written to you previously and not received responses. We hope that you will now find the time to respond. We are writing this as an open letter and copying it to our supporters, other members of the Council and interested parties.

Katherine Gutkind and Kathryn Richardson
Co Chairs
Village Concerns

cc

Councillor Standley

Planning Committee South (July 2020):

Councillor Susan Stedman
Councillor Angela Snell
Councillor Gavin Blake-Coggins
Councillor Bob Bowdler
Councillor Neil Cleaver
Councillor Geoffrey Draper
Councillor Richard Grocock
Councillor Johanna Howell
Councillor Gary Johnson
Councillor Stephen Shing
Councillor David Watts
Councillor Chris Hardy
Councillor Michael Lunn
Councillor Philip Lunn
Councillor Gareth Owen-Williams
Councillor Brian Redman
Councillor Peter Roundell
Councillor Daniel Shing

East Hoathly Parish Council

Sussex Express

BBC South