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Subject: Update 67 Local Plan Hearings
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The Stage 1 Hearings, before the Planning Inspector Louise Nurser, for the Wealden Emerging Plan finished on July 31st 2019.

Members of Village Concerns have attended each of the Hearings and were able to speak on the final day.

Parker Dann have also been at the Hearings representing Hesmonds Stud.

The Stage 1 Hearings were dealing with Legal Compliance and Soundness, overarching issues for the whole plan.

The Inspector closed the session saying that that she had much to think about and would be submitting an Interim Report to Wealden District Council at the end of August. She gave no indication of what her findings might be. However, at an earlier stage, she did say she was in discussion with Wealden regarding modifications to the Plan but these modifications were not available to the public.

It is now a waiting game. If the Inspector finds the Plan Sound and Legally Compliant, albeit with possible modifications acceptable to Wealden, the Hearings will proceed to Stage 2.

Stage 2 will discuss specific sites and issues such as the Settlement Hierarchy. This will be a vital stage for East Hoathly.

If the Plan is rejected by the Inspector after Stage 1, or her modifications are not acceptable to Wealden it will be back to the drawing board. Development will then be in the hands of the Developers particularly as Wealden does not have a 5 year land supply.

Village Concerns have gained useful information from the Stage 1 Hearings but we will need legal advice and representation for Stage 2.

There is also a strong possibility that Hesmonds will submit an appeal. Again we will need legal advice and representation.

This will be very costly. We are preparing a leaflet campaign to ascertain the level of financial support we can receive from villagers.

We are still awaiting the results of the Appeals submitted for Buttsfield Lane, South Street and Halland's Hop Garden. It appears Appeals are taking up to four months so we may not hear anything till September.

We now have a new Website for Village Concerns with a link to the Facebook page:

www.villageconcerns.co.uk/index.html

www.facebook.com/VillageConcernsEastHoathly

There is also very useful information available on the Neighbourhood Plan website:

<http://easthoathlyhallandneighbourhoodplan.co.uk>

Thank you.

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