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Village Concerns <villageconcerns2016@gmail.com> to me, bcc: Alan, bcc: Alex, bcc: Alison, bcc: Allison, bcc: Andy, bcc: Annie, bcc: Anthony, bcc: Anthony, bcc: Barbara, bcc: Barbie, bcc: Beryl, bcc: Bridget, bcc: Charlotte, bcc: Cheg, bcc: Chris, bcc: Chris, bcc: Chris, bcc: Christine, bcc: Christopher, b

Dear Supporter,

Hesmonds Legal Challenge

We were very disappointed with the decision of Wealden in approving the Hesmonds application and instructed a Barrister from Landmark Chambers to examine the committee proceedings and let us have their opinion as to the potential legal challenges that could be made in a Judicial Review.

They have given us a partial response and the process is ongoing. Their first action was to write to Wealden pointing out flaws in the advice given by the planning officer to the planning committee and requesting that the application be taken back to the committee and the flaws corrected. Wealden have rejected this request claiming that they made no mistakes. Our Barrister is reviewing this.

We are in the process of writing to all the members of the Planning Committee to let them know the situation and to ask them to challenge how the meeting was conducted. We would like supporters of Village Concerns to consider writing to Councillors with similar complaints/observations and request that the matter be taken back to committee. We have put a recording of the meeting and a transcript onto the Village Concerns website (villageconcerns.co.uk) if you can bear to be reminded of it. You may wish to just say that you were appalled by the quality of the debate and/or mention some of the following points:

The Councillors were told that the amount of houses would be less than 205 repeatedly and the Planning Officer did not correct or contradict this. These comments on the number of houses were **not** included in the Minutes of the Meeting. We will be asking each Councillor what number they think that they approved at the meeting.

Historic England and the Wealden Conservation Officer objected to the application. Some Councillors were concerned about the harm that would be caused to the Heritage Assets and they were told that some mitigation would be included in the decision notice. The wording of this was left vague, barely discussed and the Planning Officer did not seek clarity on the matter. The issue was **not** included in the Minutes of the Meeting. We will be asking each Councillor what mitigation they believe was approved at the meeting.

Many Councillors seem to have determined the outcome of the application based on the premise that other areas have had housing and therefore East Hoathly should have some. Or, that because Wealden has no up to date Local Plan and no 5 Year Land Supply, that all applications must be approved. These views are not planning reasons to approve an application. These views and many of the comments made by Councillors during the meeting indicate that they are not listening to the evidence presented to them but are coming to the meetings with their minds already predetermined to approve the applications.

The debate did not cover the huge range of objections raised by members of the public and the meeting proceeded with unseemly haste. Debate was cut short.

The public submissions made in video recordings were not shown as part of the proceedings and the objections raised in them were not answered or addressed. A specific example is the conflict in the now approved access arrangements on the London Road (requiring the removal of hedgerows and trees) and the requirement to protect and conserve the species rich hedgerows on the London Road. This was not mentioned at all during the meeting and the conflict was ignored.

Please write or email to:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Councillor Susan Stedman | cldr.susan.stedman@wealden.gov.uk |
| Councillor Angela Snell | cldr.angela.snell@wealden.gov.uk |
| Councillor Gavin Blake-Coggins | cldr.gavin.blake-coggins@wealden.gov.uk |
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| Councillor Brian Redman | cldr.brian.redman@wealden.gov.uk |
| Councillor Daniel Shing | cldr.daniel.shing@wealden.gov.uk |

Wealden District Council
 Council Offices,
 Vicarage Lane,
 Hailsham,
 BN27 2AX

Buttsfield Lane Application

The deadline for online objections to the Buttsfield Lane application WD/2020/1472/F is 24th September - please try and object.

CPRE Petition

CPRE are seeking support for their petition to oppose the Government's intention to deregulate the planning system and make it even easier for developers to build. Please use this link to sign the petition:

https://takeaction.cpre.org.uk/page/66680/petition/1200?tracking_id=www_web_take_action&fbclid=IwAR2eAd7Jct_QrXU_SQKw4158BP0umEQB_M2BNsJLA_4s10T1w5D507Eh2Uc