

South Hampshire District Group update March 2020

South Hampshire, a new Green Belt and PfSH

Our campaign for a new Green Belt in South Hampshire continues and we have commissioned a report from NEF Consulting to give us their expert and technical opinion on the socio-economic and environmental benefits arising from an area of open countryside adjacent to an area of large population. NEF Consulting are looking at the direct health and well-being benefits, and also how access to green space can actually reduce costs to the health services. They will investigate the economic benefits that a countryside location can bring, and also the natural capital and its financial outcomes, of local flood protection, clean air, clean water and food production. We will continue to liaise with and try to influence [PfSH, Partnership for South Hampshire](#) as their planning officers work towards their Statement of Common Ground, which will include housing numbers, water issues and also the possible location of Strategic Growth Areas.

Nitrates remains a significant issue with development across the area delayed whilst Natural England, Environment Agency and the Local Planning Authorities all try to work together to come up with a formula where development can be offset by taking nitrates out of the system.

The next PfSH meeting is at Fareham Civic Centre on Tuesday 7 July 2020 6.00pm.

Eastleigh

CPRE Hampshire appeared at numerous sessions for the Local Plan Examination through December 2019 and January 2020. Alongside our allies at campaign group ADD, and all the local Parish Councils, we continued to press the case that Eastleigh Borough Council have chosen the wrong location for 5,300 houses, and that building a completely new road is against all the tenets of how to deal with the Climate Emergency.

Along with our campaign partners ADD, we worked with environmental, traffic and legal experts whose presence ensured that the case against the current plan was well fought. In particular the issue of fine particles which will be produced by development and the new road, and its likely detrimental impact on the River Itchen Special Area of Conservation and its threatened fauna, is a major issue that Eastleigh Borough Council had not resolved. We are grateful to Professor David Sear for his expert opinion.

When the Inspector's letter is available a note will be posted on Eastleigh Borough Council's website to notify interested parties via the following link:- <https://www.eastleigh.gov.uk/lpexamination>. It's not appeared yet and so we now await with bated breath what the Inspector might say!

Fareham

Fareham Borough Council carried out another [consultation on their new Local Plan 2036](#) at the start of 2020 and hope to move to a Regulation 19 consultation later in the year. CPRE Hampshire made a submission and reminded Fareham Borough Council that they had seemingly "forgotten" to mention a new South Hampshire Green Belt, which they had included in their previous consultation. We also made the point that one of the most fundamental ways of combating the likelihood of adverse climate change, is to plan development where it can use better public transport and be less reliant on the car. The aspirations in Fareham Borough Council's consultation are more about how development can respond to climate change, and rather less about how spatial planning of future development can help prevent it. See our [news release](#).

Welborne progresses slowly and we continue to monitor the development.

Havant

The production of the [Havant Borough Local Plan 2036](#) has been underway since 2016, but delays due to nitrates and transport issues have held up progress. Havant Borough Council still expect the Examination to commence in 2020 with a further Regulation 19 consultation on some of the changes. However, despite the delay, three large housing sites in the Pre-submission Local Plan have already been given planning consent. One has recently been rejected. The Transport Assessment Addendum for Hayling Island was called in and rejected.

CPRE Hampshire works with all the local groups under the banner Havant Borough Residents Alliance, including Emsworth Residents Association, Hayling Island Residents, Langstone Residents Association, Langstone Village Association, Save Old Bedhampton, Warblington & Denvilles Residents Association, West Bedhampton Residents Association, Protect our Green Spaces Group, and Friends of the Earth.

Gosport

Gosport Borough Council is revising the current [Local Plan 2011-2029](#) in order to take into account changes in Government policy and forthcoming site releases. A new Local Plan 2036 due will be published for consultation at some point, but in the meantime, they are calling for sites.

Portsmouth

There is no news on the [Portsmouth Local Plan](#) other than to say it is still being prepared. The website shows some of the evidence papers but no clear commitment to a date for the next stage.

There is no further news on the future of Tipner West which had been proposed for 4,000 homes, following the original consultation which demonstrated significant concerns amongst a number of environmental organisations such as the RSPB and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust as this tidal area is important for wading birds.

Southampton

Southampton are embarking on a new Southampton City Vision consultation - [Southampton City Vision video](#).

The city's population is estimated to grow by nearly 26,000 by 2040, and they are looking for new sites for thousands of new homes, new places where people can work and businesses can run, and all the infrastructure and facilities that the city will need.

They have an [online survey](#) which is open until 19 April. It will form part of their Regulation 18 Issue and Options consultation. Our submission said that it is critical that Southampton's city, spatial planning and urban development form and function contribute to combating adverse climate change by prioritising the location of new development around public transport hubs. We also shared our concerns about potential impacts on the Solent protected areas and the New Forest National Park.

Please get in touch if you'd like to get involved with the group.

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