

## **Planning responsibly for the next 10 years meeting held at 7pm 14<sup>th</sup> December 2010 at Wickham Community Centre**

Present: Wickham Parish Councillors and 100 members of the public.

The meeting began with an address from the Chairman Angela Clear, details are below:

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen and a very warm welcome to you all.

I know many of you are here this evening mainly regarding the recent two proposals for development in our village. We appreciate there will be local objectors and there will be an opportunity to address some of your objections this evening through discussion and in more detail in the future as further information on the needs of the community become apparent.

Over the last two years work has been carried out to prepare a Parish Plan to replace the 2004 plan. We have asked people what they value most about where they live and everyone has made it clear that Wickham's strong community spirit and rural setting are its most appreciated characteristics.

The residents of Knowle have said they want their settlement to remain distinct from any future development.

We must enhance and protect these highly regarded characteristics of our Parish whilst also looking to the future needs of our community.

The new government has indicated that local communities should be active in deciding and planning for their own future. We strongly believe development requirements should be determined locally, however we have to recognise we do not have all the answers and will probably need outside help to fully determine our needs.

The Parish Council has recently carried out a survey asking residents for their views on development needs for the village and although many of you may be expecting to "thrash" these out this evening, we would like to explore some of the issues further and we may need some further guidance from Winchester City Council before coming to a decision. As a parish council we must ensure we take the needs of all sections of the community into account and not just respond to the loudest voices, this is particularly challenging at times.

Please be assured that no planning applications have been received for either of the sites that you have been consulted upon.

We do not want to rush our decisions, and by taking a step back we can tie in with Winchester City Council's current review of its plans for the District in the light of the new Localism agenda and the proposed removal of top down housing targets.

WCC has asked parishes to use its Blueprint idea to discuss future needs for the community in more detail and this is what we would like to explore later this evening.

Whilst we can be pleased to have increased local responsibility from the new Coalition Government, it is also a major challenge for us.

It is a task we need to take seriously and with an open mind. If we do not get our planning right, the consequences may not only damage us, but then may damage the community we thought we were protecting.

Blueprint is about setting our own targets for housing etc. It is aimed at determining what local needs and priorities are. Things and places change whether we like it or not and whether we plan for it or not.

We won't be able to blame the government or even the City Council if we don't take part in Blueprint, so please may I ask you all to be positive about getting involved in this process.

Tables have been set out downstairs for those that wish to take part later in the evening. We would like each table to look at the profiles of certain characters and how their needs may be met in the community in the long and short term. The discussions sheets ask how, what and where for various needs and we would like each table to discuss and note key responses to the questions and we would like each table to nominate a note taker and spokesperson.

We will collate your responses and use them together with the results of recent surveys to provide Winchester City Council with the community's views on key issues.

There will be many opportunities for further discussion and consultation in the future and if we do not already have your e-mail address or home address, please leave it with us at some point during the evening so we can keep you up to date with consultation events and progress of the Parish Plan.

Many thanks for attending this evening and now the floor is open for a thirty minute questions session and then the rest of the evening will be for our Blueprint exercise if you wish to join us.

Questions asked included:

- What is the timescale for decisions on future development? The Chairman advised no detailed timescale is available at present.
- What guarantee is there that our problems will be resolved with the SDA? Cllr Therese Evans advised that the SDA and issues surrounding it will be Fareham Borough Council's decisions. Cllr Mike Carter advised of the campaign being lead by the CPRE objecting to the SDA.
- It was suggested two plans for Wickham were needed, one that includes the SDA and one assuming it doesn't happen.
- It was suggested that no private housing was needed in Wickham and Wickham should not support development for private gain.
- It was suggested that the Localism Bill creates a new dynamic between WCC and Wickham Parish Council. Communities will be able to safeguard the future of rural villages for future generations.

- Infrastructure concerns were raised, traffic and dangerous roads a problem at present, nothing should be built until infrastructure is in.
- The community should stop WCC planners telling Wickham what it needs, let the village determine its needs through the parish plan.
- Improved communication from the Parish Council was requested.

The Chairman noted the above comments, thanked everyone for attending and invited those present to take part in the Blueprint exercise in a room downstairs.

Meeting closed 8.15pm