

APPENDIX A

AGENDA ITEM 8 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM RESIDENTS

1. Jerry Janes – Chairman of Holybourne Village Association: Agenda Item 10

Dear Councillor

I write with respect to the decision taken by the Alton Neighbourhood Plan steering group not to recommend any sites for development within the Alton area.

This decision has the effect of removing the benefit of local knowledge and experience from those members of that group and handing the decision making back to officers and Members at EHCD. It is the opposite of taking back control that composing our own Neighbourhood Plan had offered.

Already Alton has been hit unfairly with a huge and totally unfair dwelling building total of 1700 which understandably, has caused consternation across the town. This decision by the ANP steering group has weakened the ability of the townsfolk to influence where development should take place and saying this, I do recognise the enormous pressure the group has been put under by those seeking to influence their choices. I Chair one such group but felt at ease arguing our case with other Altonians who I know, understood our situation and environment. I feel no confidence at all that we will be treated with similar understanding by those based at EHDC.

Can I ask the Town Council to delay making a decision for two weeks on this issue and to take advice from their own constituents to determine what local feelings are on this issue?

I'd be enormously grateful if Members could consider this request carefully.

With best wishes and grateful thanks

Jerry Janes – Chairman Holybourne Village Association.

2. Mr. Raj jeyasingam – previously circulated to all Councillor: Agenda Item 11

Dear members

I noticed that the Palace Cinema application is in your agenda for the meeting to be held on 28th February, hopefully to make it easier for you, as you have busy schedules, I can confirm all the matters mentioned by the previous planning officer in her refusal for my planning application, have been rectified.

I have noticed that in your previous comments, you were a bit concerned about the bin storage and would like a fire officer to be consulted. I can confirm, as I have done during the site visit by Councillor Eyre, the new bin storage will be incorporated inside the existing cinema, thus leaving a clear path. The alley to the side of the cinema building belongs to me and will be kept clear at all times for the benefit of the new development.

Any privacy issue has been dealt with by relocating the windows and fitting obscured glass where necessary.

As it is an internal conversion, I foresee no building supplies being delivered via the service road to the rear of the building. Any builders working on the site will be parking their vehicles in Alton House Hotel, where I will be paying their parking fees, as and when required.

It has been exactly one year since the original application was submitted, lets hope this application will be dealt with within the specified time limit.

You have previously made me aware you have limited powers as a consultee, but I would appreciate your support in this matter.

Kind regards
Raj

3. Carol Outlaw – Holybourne Resident: Agenda Item 10

To the Town Clerk,

Please be kind enough to forward this email to each member of the Alton Town Council before the extraordinary meeting this Wednesday, the 28th Feb 2024. Many thanks in anticipation.

Dear Alton Town Council Member,

I write to register my concern at recent developments regarding the Draft Local Plan and the numbers of homes being allocated to Alton within it and the possible site allocations in Alton. My main concerns are for Holybourne as this is where I live but also Alton as a whole.

I believe the overall figure of 1700 homes (potentially upwards of 5000 people) between now and 2040, is far too high for a town with a current population of approx 18,000. I am particularly against the proposed site at Neatham Down (and the possibility of 100-200 houses in Holybourne). Both of these would be on greenfield sites which should be a last resort once all brownfield sites have been exhausted. As I understand it no brownfield sites have been considered thus far.

Holybourne (up to 223 homes)

Any development of this size is an absolute no no, not only because of the green implication but also the problem of traffic in the village. It is already difficult to navigate through the village especially at busy times. Adding another potential 200 or more households to this would be unthinkable. This is in addition to the loss of countryside and flood risks. I'm sure others will have written to you about this already.

Neatham Down (1200 homes!)

This is prime greenfield land, the other side of the A31 to the town of Alton with all the implications that go with that; traffic, lack of services, accessibility to the town, environmental impact etc, loss of beautiful, wildlife sustaining countryside, all of which I know you are perfectly well aware of.

There has already been extensive development on greenfield land on the outskirts of Alton with more to come following recent planning permissions.

I understand that it is your intention to hand responsibility of numbers and site allocations back to EHDC which absolutely amazes me! You are obviously aware of the issues mentioned above as well as others, so how does passing the buck back to EHDC help, knowing very well that it is highly likely to ignore them and override any objections local residents have?

As I understand it the whole process is flawed and that local opinion and ideas have been ignored thus far. I also understand that a decision does not have to be made until 2026 anyway, following an extension to the previous deadline.

I am asking you, please, to postpone a decision at the meeting due to be held this coming Wednesday and to really listen to the feelings and objections of the residents of Alton (who elected you) and the reasons for them, and to work together with us to get the best possible outcome for all of us.

I know this whole subject is complex and does not only involve Alton and is obviously a political football but at the end of the day, your main responsibility is to the residents of the town of Alton, please do the right thing and take it seriously.

I would appreciate a response to my concerns from you and look forward to hearing from you.
Yours seriously

4. Dr. June Chatfield: Copy of representation sent in response to the Local Plan Reg 18 Part II Consultation: Agenda Item 9

Comments to Alton Town Council 28th February 2024

From Dr June Chatfield

As an environmental scientist I consider that there is lack of evidence and factual basis at the beginning of the Local Plan.

Overarching omissions are:

1. Insufficient knowledge and understanding of the local geology and topography that impose considerable constraints on building including financial viability because of infrastructure like pile driving. The Lower or Grey Chalk strata (viz: West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation and Zigzag Chalk Formation) have a high clay content unlike the more solid pure White Middle and Upper Chalk strata. Alton is unusual in the abundance of the Grey Chalk and developers equate chalk with good drainage – true for White Chalk, not so for Grey Chalk. The West Melbury Marly Chalk is the aquiclude that holds up the chalk aquifer that provides our chalk sourced water supply from Lasham. Where it outcrops at the surface springs arise. The Local Plan does note springs along the whole of the northern Wey.
- The Zigzag Chalk has various strata from marl to thin limestone bands and its clay content coupled with freeze-thaw action from around the ends of Ice Ages makes it heavily jointed and unstable as building land. There are cases of existing developments at King's View, Quarry Heights and another site in Wilsom Road under construction where there has been massive removal of chalk leaving a vertical cliff at the edge of the cutting which at King's View has failed more than once in the last 20 years. The latter came on the back of Highways not objecting to the access road provided it achieved a 1:10 minimum slope and this necessitated further excavation of the house plots. Both Neatham Down and Windmill Hill lower slopes would meet the same problems. Sometimes the best way to avoid problems is to be more aware of the limitations of the rock type and topography. Putting them into conditions on planning application is too late as money will have been spent on the application.
2. Insufficient knowledge of local hydrology a consequence of geology. The Wilsom Road industrial site allocation has spring seepages and the Caker Stream flows through it. The hollow in the field to the South of Omega Park was dug out by the Environment Agency as flood protection from ground water and surface run-off. The land has limited capacity for industrial use.
3. The chalk aquifer has so far been Alton's reliable water supply but it is depleting and Wey Springs Pumping Station in New Odiham Road was closed in 2003 as unsustainable so we depend on water from Lasham. A reliable water supply from its springs was the reason for settlement in Alton.
4. With a proposed 3,000 extra inhabitants who feed and expel daily that is a considerable overload on the Alton Sewage Treatment Works that also has load from new developments in Four Marks and Medstead. There are many incidents of legal discharge consent of raw sewage entering the northern Wey, an internationally important chalk stream and native trout fishery. In my 45 years in this area doing field work in the Wey I have evidence of a decline in the mollusc and shrimp populations which I attribute to sewage pollution. The Wey Valley Catchment Partnership's first vision statement to improve the Wey to good ecological status in line with the EU Water Framework Directive (good law that we need to keep intact in our post-Brexit legislation) concluded that this could not be done without massive Government funding on Sewage Treatment Works. This is a serious limiting factor to development not mentioned in the Local Plan.
5. No understanding or mention of the history of Alton from a population of around 2,000 in 1800 to the present circa 20,000. Settlement started on river terrace gravel (e.g. St Lawrence church) and Normandy Street and the High Street are on this or Head deposit which drains well. All the best building land has been taken. The new Coors development is on West Melbury Marly Chalk so drainage will be an issue.

- 6 The tick box approach is not all inclusive and lack of information affects deliverability.
- 7 Natural limiting factors to growth and development, carrying capacity, of Alton. The suitable land for development has already been taken up. Any building on the periphery brings a car-dependent community. Are the existing new builds selling? A friend who regularly looks at the Alton property market online suggests not. Quite a few of the buyers come from higher priced areas in Surrey and London and come to Alton for lower cost housing. One comment I have had is the miniscule size of new build gardens. Space needs to be allocated for trees on development sites which is difficult to do in high densities as tree roots need more than a canopy spread and tree roots and drains are not good close together. Trees are needed for shade and heat control in the warmer summers to come as outlined in early sections of the Local Plan.
- 8 In reality Alton is full.

5. Juliet MacColl: Agenda Item 9/10

Dear Alton Town Councillors

A development is being proposed in Holybourne on the site of a natural spring. The field acts as a flood plain as does the field behind the playground. These fields are the areas where water from the springs and run off from Holybourne Down drain. The water will be displaced by any new developments and existing housing will be at risk. There was significant flooding in Holybourne in 2014 and this will only get worse if these fields are lost to development. Surface flooding is expected to be a growing issue and is obviously exacerbated by new developments. The risk will be more acute as climate change brings wetter weather and more intense storms.

I am asking the Town Councillors to make sound environmental decisions and to build on brownfield sites. There has to come a time when the EHDC stops dumping all the housing needs on Alton and the surrounds. Please stand up for the population you have been elected to represent. Bordon have had enough, why can't we have STRONG representation and say enough is enough. Aren't our green fields worth saving?

If every village in EHD built between 10 and 25 affordable homes, the need for these sprawling suburban developments would diminish. Villages would thrive and communities would be enhanced. Our town would then not become another Basingstoke, voted recently as in the top 20 worst towns in the UK.

Let's have a more creative response to our housing needs and allow the existing residents to continue enjoy living here.

How many of the houses and flats on the site of the brewery remain unsold? Where is the need for these huge numbers of new houses? Why aren't empty shops being converted into residential dwellings?

Yours sincerely
Juliet MacColl

6. Simon Millard: Agenda Item 10

Dear Town Councillor

After reading the recent minutes for ATC meeting this coming week, I would advocate that Alton Town Councillors delay responding to the ANPSG recommendation to not allocate until they have fully analysed the available options, including partial allocation of brownfield sites and taken input from Altonians. The decision from ANPSG was not a majority decision and is not evidenced by public opinion who are not aware of its implications.

This could be done within a matter of weeks and avoid a decision which has adverse implications for centuries.

Yours faithfully
Simon Millard

7. Richard Kelly: Agenda Item 10

Dear Alton Town Councillors

This message is related to the item on your forthcoming meeting on Wednesday 28th February relating to the proposal to remove site allocations from the draft Neighbourhood Plan.

For your information, I am a resident of Holybourne and have lived in the village for just about 30 years.

I strongly object to this proposal on several grounds

My principal objection is that the allocation of housing is fundamental to the validity of the Neighbourhood Plan (ANP). If the Council accepts the recommendation of their appointed Steering Group (ANLSG) then it seems to me you are abdicating all responsibility and accountability for the development of housing in Alton. You are in effect saying that we don't have

- a) the tenacity to find out what our residents want and
- b) the courage and will to stand up and fight for the interests of our town's citizens.

We are all fully aware that Alton and its surrounding villages does not have the infrastructure to accommodate the number of dwellings which EHDC are keen to foist on us. I recognise that Neatham Down is technically outside of Alton and its Plan area but that is pure technicality. EHDC in their own plan use words which clearly indicate they see Neatham Down as a part of Alton and residents who would use Alton facilities as their principal hub.

So to propose adding the number of houses outlined in the plan without suitable and appropriate infrastructure is tantamount to dereliction of duty. If EHDC really are serious about something the size of Neatham Down, then they should build this not from the ground up but from 2 metres down - starting with sewage, power, communications etc all in place before a single road or housing brick is laid. We all know of the failure of promises to do the infrastructure afterwards - so if we want to do it then do it properly.

As I understand it, national policy is to utilise brown field sites rather than green field ones which damage the beauty of the countryside we have. I know the South Downs National Park (SDNP) is protected but simply because Neatham Down and Alton are marginally outside the SDNP boundary does not make them any less beautiful. Where are the results of research which shows how brownfield sites have been considered and discarded? Has there been such research?

Ultimately, it may be that greenfield sites will be needed. But that, surely, can only be considered if any when full research into all other options are exhausted. I see no evidence of that. And if we have to go greenfield then have developers put their money where their mouth is and get the infrastructure in place first. If a 'Neatham Down' type and size of settlement is needed, then create it in an open area with its own infrastructure which does not hurt and impinge on existing settlements.

To reiterate the key point of this message: if councillors vote for this proposal then I feel they are betraying the people of Alton by not keeping key decision making under local control. I would strongly urge you to consider the interests of your population (your constituents let's not forget) and reject this proposal.

Yours sincerely

Richard Kelly

8. Liz Day: Agenda Item 10

To All Alton Town Councillors

After reading the recent minutes for ATC meeting this coming week, I would advocate that Alton Town Councillors delay responding to the ANPSG recommendation not to allocate until they have fully analysed the available options, including partial allocation of brownfield sites and taken input from Altonians. The decision from ANPSG was not a majority decision and is not evidence by public opinion who are not aware of the implications.

It is incredibly concerning to learn that allowing the decision on planning for hundreds of houses on greenfield sites within our villages with their own unique identity, could soon be taken by EHDC, whereby there is limited knowledge or connection to the local Areas of Alton and Holybourne. Holybourne has seen much housing development over the recent years and is not able to sustain further housing estates; you will already be aware of the strength of opposition from Holybourne residents and all the points raised here why development here is not safe or sustainable.

But we must stop destroying our greenfield sites and I urge you please to all push back on the housing allocations that Alton/Holybourne are required to take. Every brownfield site must be considered first before you destroy our beautiful countryside and communities. EHDC must look at a fairer allocation of housing for Alton and require other towns/areas to take a fairer share.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours faithfully
Liz Day
Holybourne Resident

9. Jessica Smith: Agenda Item 10

Dear Councillors and Town Clerk,

In advance of tomorrow's council meeting, I wanted to put across my plea for re-consideration of the response to the local plan. My husband and I are very concerned that asking for site allocations to be removed from the neighbourhood plan could make the situation worse for future development, allowing for developers to have a free for all in putting up sites for planning permission with decisions being made by EDHC, and no neighbourhood plan in place to give weight over where development cannot be built.

We urge that the neighbourhood plan should be delayed until the housing numbers have been challenged and resolved. Pushing through a neighbour plan with no site allocations could cause even more adverse development in our green fields. I understand that the Government have extended the duration of the Neighbourhood Plans, meaning that our NP will now not expire until November 2026. This gives time to challenge the housing allocation figures with EDHC and once the issues are resolved and figures confirmed, then the NP can be processed.

EDHC need to be challenged over their preference of green sites development over existing brownfield availability (circa 2,000 houses potential) which goes against the Government priorities. They also need to be challenged on the massively unfair and uneven distribution of housing numbers throughout the district, including the 20% buffer figure for Alton. All these questions are raised in your draft response, but we urge that the allocations are not given back to EDHC leaving Alton in a more vulnerable position.

We plan to submit our responses to the Local Plan this week.

I would be grateful if the Town Clerk could forward my email to all Alton Councillors today in advance of the meeting scheduled for tomorrow.

With many thanks,

Jessica Smith

10. Lucy Loosemore: Agenda Item 10

Once again Alton is being used as the EHDC dumping ground for newbuilds.

This fabulous, once little, town, with its close community, has already been subjected to a number of dubious new-builds. The jarring 'lego houses' set on the rolling green of Will hall Farm. The monstrosity of ugly flats on the old brewery site (nothing like the idyllic images we were shown). The estates at the top of Anstey Lane, built on what was supposed to be protected land (at least one of these houses cannot be lived in due to the shoddy building work).

All of this extra building has been done with very little concern for infrastructure, unless you count the ridiculously expensive (due to poor planning) traffic lights at the bottom of Anstey lane, which fixed a non-existent problem! The issues was, and still is and is getting worse due to the multitude of traffic lights at the Eggars end of the road. Several million on the Anstey Lane traffic lights could have been resolved with a small roundabout (your welcome).

Back to the main point. Why is Alton being used, once again, to dump an excess of new builds? I am unable to find any reason within the county council proposal for this blatant shifting from other available sites. Why such an attempt to get this in under the radar if everything was so above board and fair?

Is there a need to look closer at who owns proposed land, where councillors reside in relation to other potential sites, further investigation may need to be done with regard to conflict of interest. There have been alleged conflicts of interest with regard to previous developments, these things cannot remain unchallenged.

I understand the council has to hit a new build quota (my complex argument here goes further up the political chain). However, the clear and concise objections laid out by ATC, would lead me to believe that EHDC has conducted poor and bias investigations to come up with such a proposal, once again putting Alton in the worst possible situation. My main question is Why? Who benefits from this, it is certainly not the residents of Alton. Or is it just laziness on EHDC's part?

I look forward to greater explanation from EHDC, on how they came up with such a proposal and subsequent significant alteration to said proposal.

Kind regards
Lucy Loosemore

Correspondence received after publication of Agenda Item 8 Correspondence on Tuesday, 27th February

11. Debbie Whitehead

FAO all Alton Town Councillors with respect to the agenda item on the draft local plan at Wednesday's Town Council meeting.

I would be very grateful if the clerk could pass this message on to all councillors.

I would like to express my concern that Alton Town Council will pass the matter of the allocation of housing back to EHDC. This would imply that the residents of Alton are not interested in defining the parameters of what is acceptable to progress the development of the town, which is patently unjust and untrue – evidenced by recent turnout at public consultations for instance. Passing responsibility to EHDC denies the local voters a genuine voice in the developments affecting them, and also lends itself to those who do not have an interest, or indeed have other competing interests, having a more significant impact.

By way of example, the current housing allocation put Alton and Holybourne in Tier 1 whereas other towns in the locality, such as Whitehill and Bordon have been moved to Tier 2. This means that Alton will take the brunt of all new housing and is inherently unfair. EHDC has councillors representing these districts too and I need my local councillors to listen to my voice and fight for my community.

Please do NOT pass the matter of housing allocation to EHDC.

Thank you for your attention and the work that you do to support the residents of Alton,

Regards

Debbie Whitehead

12. Jeroen Hodges

Afternoon Pat / Graham / Don (and Alton Town Councillors)

I am reaching out to express my concerns about the EHDC Local Plan and current status of the Alton Neighbourhood Plan. I write that as a resident of Holybourne and indeed more broadly Alton its surrounding areas ([REDACTED]). I appreciate the commitment and effort that you and the Town Council invest to make Alton and its surrounds an area to be proud of!

I am conscious that feedback is required on the broader Local Plan and the current status / decision-making around the Alton Neighbourhood Plan – feedback is on many levels and all inter-related. I shall also feedback on the EHDC Local Plan site.

My feedback is based on attendance at ANP and EHDC consultation events – I feel very well briefed and indeed consider myself particularly engaged – these plans frankly pose an existential threat to our lovely part of East Hampshire. Of particular note I wish to raise:

- Overall allocation of 1700 homes – whilst I respect the need to provide housing for the UK population, I find it amazing that this number, allocated a number of years ago, is so high. It is the root cause of all the challenges we face, driving community to fight against community and avoid mass over-development. Calculated as an input to the 2020 allocations process, so much has changed:
- o Covid - Working from Home - Movement from a Low Interest environment - Lack of demand for existing housing such as Brewery Fields (where take up has been low) ... indeed this figure actually includes 20+% contingency so we are actually aiming to over-deliver!
- o I have very little confidence that this starting point is now correct

- Protection of specific “Tier 2” areas from development, thereby concentrating much development around Alton “Tier 1” area. Either formally or through ‘under the table deals’ it is clear that EHDC allocation is not being fairly shared across the area:
- o Bordon – has a political block who hold the balance of power – their prime objective is no more / limited further development of Bordon
- o Petersfield – a town similar to Alton but in the SDNP. However, Petersfield’s location in a natural bowl means sensible targeted development could be delivered without significant impact to the SDNP (at least far less impact than the Neatham Downs site)
- o Alton – appears to have been singled out for what can only be described as harsh over-development. It feels Alton and its surrounds doesn’t have the same level of “political protection”. It is unfair to expect to allocate the vast majority of housing to Alton and its surrounds. I believe that Alton and its surrounds deserves a ‘movement’ ... have raised this with Alton Herald journalist – let’s create public profile and opportunity to feedback
- Process to identify large areas including belatedly Neatham Down. It seems a poorly designed process is being followed where multiple large sites (Chawton Park Farm, Northbrook, ...) have been discounted and at the last minute the 3rd / 4th best option is being railroaded through. All options should have comparative SWOT analysis executed to ensure a fair / transparent process is followed. I will be feeding back on the Local Plan the issues with Neatham Down site – I wouldn’t be surprised if similar to the other sites. Currently it feels as if like “musical chairs” the music has stopped and Neatham is left standing and now targeted for massive over-development with 1250 houses to solve the challenge of delivery of a large allocation
 - o Provision of infrastructure. Clearly there are very plans / considerations of required infrastructure.
 - o Greenfield not brownfield. Government policy is clearly oriented towards brownfield over greenfield sites ... the consideration of sites like Neatham and Holybourne clearly contradict this – until at least there is demonstrable consideration of brownfield sites, including the ex-army sites across Bordon. There are a range of other sites that warrant equal consideration
- I have heard that “South Alton” now includes Holybourne and Neatham. These villages in rural settings do not deserve to be urbanised as part of the spread of Alton. At the Local Plan consultation in the Maltings I heard several times reference to South Alton – treating these villages as suburbs of Alton. There should remain a buffer zone and delineation of these villages
- Approach and timing of plans misaligned. It is crucial that the EHDC and ANP plans are aligned – it feels that they are being created in isolation.
- Neatham Down feedback. Will provide this to the Local Plan consultation process
- Alton / ANP should NOT lose control of allocation process. I have noticed in the agenda of the 28th Feb meeting that ANP are proposing to pass back the allocation of sites around Alton to EHDC ... they have noted that it is too tough to decide allocations. I recognise the challenges faced by a volunteer group, however:
- o If a more sensible allocation to be delivered was defined (not the 700) the task would be more manageable
- o The ANP and communities would need to find a balanced approach to agree allocations
- o ... given the amount of effort and consultation invested, we should not pass this emotive issue to planners less connected to the Alton area

To confirm, I appreciate the effort invested by a range of our local representatives (EHDC and Alton Town councillors) and the work of the ANP team. The objective of this communication is reinforce points that I believe are well known / understood. There are a number of people who are mobilising to support you in your considerations / voice of challenge to the emerging plans.

Best regards
Jeroen Hodges

13. Nick Whitehead

FAO - Alton Town Councillors regarding Wednesday's Town Council meeting - with respect to the agenda item on the draft local plan.

I would be very grateful if the clerk could pass this message on to all councillors.

I write to express my concern that Alton Town Council is considering moving the assessment of allocation of housing back to EHDC. This appears to indicate that the Town Council believe that the residents of Alton are not interested in expressing a view on the most appropriate housing development in the town. This isn't the case and recent turnout at public consultations is but one item in evidence. Passing responsibility to EHDC disenfranchises local voters.

I understand that the current housing allocation puts Alton and Holybourne in Tier 1 whereas other towns in the locality, such as Whitehill and Bordon have been moved to Tier 2. This means that Alton will be required to take the majority of all new housing which is unreasonable in my view. I urge my local councillors to represent our locality.

Please do NOT pass the assessment of housing allocation to EHDC.

Regards
Nick Whitehead

14. Vanessa Gist

Dear Ms Harris

I understand that the Town Council will meet this evening to discuss, amongst other things, the response to be sent to EHDC regarding the Local Plan. I should be grateful if you would pass this message to the councillors.

The ANP Steering Group has put many hours into working out a way to allocate sites in and around Alton whilst meeting the requirements of the Local Plan and remaining true to the expressed wishes of the residents of Alton. I think they have proved fairly conclusively that this cannot be done. The basic premise - that Alton allocates sites for 1700 new houses - is unfair and unrealistic. In particular, the increase in traffic and the loss of greenfield areas will be hugely detrimental to residents.

Your draft response to the Local Plan is an excellent document. I should be grateful if, however, you could ensure that by declining to make site allocations you do not inadvertently pass that decision to EHDC and the planning department who will not necessarily take account of Alton residents' needs and wishes. EHDC needs to change its allocation of new houses to Alton and I have written accordingly to EHDC.

Many thanks,
Vanessa Gist

15. Richard Kelly: (additional comments to comment 7 above)

However, having thought a little further on the subject I have a couple of additional sentences which, if I may, I would like to be added to my earlier comments. As follows:

I understand that ATC and the ANPSG are fundamentally opposed to the draft Local Plan prepared by EHDC. That is welcome and good news. However, it is not clear to me that simply refusing to address the allocation issue really addresses that point. Surely it would be better to take up the offer from EHDC and make some partial allocation of (a lot) less than the 700 which the plan proposes. To try to rely on strategies for design,

climate change, protection for diversity, parking and transport may be a very dangerous approach.

Many thanks
Richard Kelly

16. Jane Davies

Please could you kindly copy this to all of the Town Councillors?

Dear All,

I am writing to ask that you consider your choice on the future development of Alton and the surrounding areas carefully. The current plans may have involved local people, but the land up for development is driven by the local landowners – which is clearly financially driven. There is no consideration of why people chose to live in Alton and the surrounding areas – as we want to live in a small town, within the green belt.

The current developments being undertaken in the area are not in keeping with the local area and mass development in Neatham and Holybourne will damage the green belt here for ever.

The Prime Minister has announced recently that the priority should be brownfield sites. Surely this is a better option than building on virgin greenfield sites? I know that you have an impossible task to balance government and local demands – but surely you are appointed to represent people like me, who live and work in the area.

Please do not hand back responsibility for the allocation to EDHC. Why does Alton have to take the brunt of all this new development? Places like Bordon have brown field sites, and infrastructure in place. Their councillors are all supporting the people and opposing any development.

Surely the impact of the National Park on East Hampshire needs to be factored into the equation. It is on our doorstep but should not mean that we need to take more than our allocation.

And then there are the issues of the density of the population, education and medical facilities, the environmental impact of more cars, more flooding, impact on wildlife, lack of employment opportunities (outside the construction sector). And then there is the concreting over of our beautiful landscape – and no doubt once building lines have been established, will set the precedent for more development in the future.

Now, we can access beautiful green space in Alton. Why would anyone want to build on it when there are other options?

Jane Davies

17. Siobhan Doyle

Dear ATC, Don & Graham

I read with interest the agenda for this evening's extra ordinary town council meeting and proposed decision making in respect to housing and the neighbourhood plan. I am heartened to see the town council pushing back to EHDC in respect of the disproportionate numbers allocated to us in Alton compared with the wider district of East Hants. I endorse the recommendation that you object to EHDC draft local plan as it stands, for the reasons you identify (especially the brownfield first approach). However this leads to me feel concerned about the second suggest action that the town council vote to remove its allocations from the

neighbourhood plan. I am very worried that this will mean EHDC have more power to allocate where ever and however they like (given they seem not to have adhered to listed policies to date when proposing Neatham Down). I am particular concerned this will give carte blanche to the land owner in Holybourne to push through with their developer the proposed 200plus housing estate in the village (adding a third to the village's current size and with no consideration whatsoever of the traffic and safety issues already experienced in the village).

I note the extracts from tonight's meeting agenda;

The original scenario 1 (brownfield town centre) has been rendered undeliverable in the numbers originally conceived. These were predicated on the redevelopment of some of the parking areas in the town centre potentially through a Neighbourhood Development Order and in accordance with national policy, supported by the community at the engagement stages, to place brownfield redevelopment above greenfield. This could have potentially been achieved with the repurposing of some parking in the town centre with a greater focus on active travel. However, the allocation of a satellite village, with residents dependent upon car use to access the town centre for local services and shopping, rendered this unachievable. For a car dependent community such as Neatham Down, if access to Alton High Street proved difficult with a car, they would just go elsewhere along the A31.

I am concerned that in effect ATC is saying because Neatham Down is proposed, you won't endorse brownfield sites (carparks) within Alton as viable, because the car dependent ND site will need the carparks in Alton! This in no way prioritises brownfield first approach and ATC is in effect giving permission for ND by saying it needs car parks – ND quite frankly is a town not a satellite village and I couldn't care less if they went further up the A31!

Further extract states;

It is not the intention of the Neighbourhood Plan to be divisive, nor to create an environment where sectors of the community are seemingly "pitted" against each other, nor see the Plan shaping the town in such a way that it detracts from its future vibrancy and vitality. Neighbourhood Planning is designed to bring the community together, with a shared vision for the future development of the town.

At the moment, I very much feel this is pitting communities together and without ATC influencing where new development goes (as based on Altonian's feedback as evidence through your very effective consultation last year) there is a risk we are overrun by development. I understand that the current Alton neighbourhood plan can be extended under recent government changes, and is no longer at risk of being seen as expired, and therefore ATC can object to EHDC draft local plan (item 8 on agenda) but also there is an opportunity to delay this decision on allocation of housing (item 9 on agenda) – which I ask you to consider.

Best wishes
Siobhan Doyle

18. Nick Taylor

FOA Pat Harris, Interim Town Clerk

Dear Pat,

I am writing to object to the proper planning in Holybourne and Neatham Down.

I am astonished that these are even being considered. Both proposed developments would irreversibly negatively impact on the community, culture and nature of the areas.

I cannot begin to imagine the negative impact they will have on the wellbeing of the local area both in terms of reducing access to nature (well evidenced as impacting on mental health) and also the safety of the area - crime, pollution, busy roads.

On that final point, Holybourne is already impassable with the current residents cars. Adding more simply makes no sense.

I do not know of a single person in the community who is in favour of such unsustainable and disproportionate development.

Best wishes,

Nick

APPENDIX B