



NEWS BULLETIN N^o1 APRIL 2020

Introduction

We at SOSCA are hoping that everyone is keeping safe and well and not too depressed about the current situation. Whilst the nation is self-isolating sadly this has not deterred the government from insisting its planning and housing policies continue to go ahead. This has placed CDC in a difficult position due to the many concerns raised by so many of our communities that they have asked for a delay in the process in order to fully take on board all the arguments against these policies. Unfortunately, the government appears to be resistant to these requests and refusing to even consider the fact that we are in a uniquely difficult geographical position to relent. There are no other areas where the restrictions include a National Park, an AONB, the sea, together with a huge flood plain.

May we assure you that even under these circumstances the SOSCA alliances together with MPAG and others are still researching and collating arguments to present to the government.

Our first zoom committee meeting took place this week and it was thought that we would create a news bulletin to let you know the areas of concern we are working on.

Local Plan Review

The Alliance strongly supports the request by Chichester District Council to delay the Local Plan Review and written directly to Mr. R Jenrick, Secretary of State for DHCLG.

Fishbourne

For once a positive outcome at Fishbourne. They have been striving for many years to protect the Grade 1 and 2 agricultural land at Bethwines Farm, and the developers have been striving every which way to cover it in housing. The first for-ay of the developers onto this area is a planning application to build 35 houses on the edge of this land thus getting their foot in the door so to speak. Fortunately, the Inspector turned this down due to the lack of adequate infrastructure, especially concerning wastewater and sewage management. This outcome was helped by a fantastic response by the public (over three hundred responded) in writing into CDC with well written clear relevant objections. An illustration that it does occasionally pay to persevere.

AL6—Land South West of Chichester 85 Ha

Another hugely worrying policy of CDC is that they are still going ahead with the AL6 scheme. The scheme would entail making a 'link' road from Stockbridge to Fishbourne. The land over which this would be built would also be a huge development for both commercial and housing. In order to divert the heavy traffic that enters the city from the Stockbridge roundabout (on the Manhood Peninsula) they hope to channel it off on to this newly built road. This road would have to be elevated as it would sit on a flood plain with the River Lavant running through it. This elevation would have the additional horrors of not only looking terrible but would exacerbate air pollution and noise, abut on to the eastern boarder of the AONB of Chichester Harbour, and obliterate the protect-ed views of our cathedral and bell tower. And where is it being directed to? Fishbourne roundabout, one of the most dangerous on the whole of the A27, one of the most contaminated areas from air pollution along the south, and one that is already at full capacity from the A259 which runs through the east west corridor from Chichester and which is about to have thousands of extra homes from new developments we are fighting against. There is not a shred of common sense, of sustainability, of long-term value, of environmental protection. If we don't make a stand against AL6 development, there will be without doubt the following consequences - flood risk/environmental degradation/impact on important views of the cathedral from the harbour and one of the area's most popular cycle routes/footpaths/impact on tourism and impact water quality of Harbour/sewage works etc. It will undermine everything else we are trying to achieve on health and wellbeing, of climate change concerns and adherence to the proclaimed signed up zero carbon policy. We must encourage and support our elected representatives to listen to their communities' concerns.

The Alliance

The Alliance of SOSCA and MPAG are working hard to research an alternative case based on government policies and international directives to pro-vide arguments against this hugely damaging and destructive action of so much that is unique to the City of Chichester and her communities.

There is no doubt that our national predicament has huge knock-on effects on the personal lives of everyone. But if there is a moment when your thoughts turn to other things, whether you could encourage as many people as possible to support our efforts so that when this dark moment is over, we can help contribute to a new sanity. We salute you all for your patience and support and look forward to happier times.