

Chichester

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www.chichester.co.uk Thursday, May 27, 2021

Villages call for action to stop housing threat

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Villages stretching across the south of the Chichester district have united in demanding action to stop the threat of overdevelopment.

Chichester District Council is still some way from completing its local plan review and in the meantime has put out an interim position statement for housing covering the area outside of the national park.

But since then a number of parishes have been inundated with large new planning applications.

Representatives from more than a dozen villages stretching from Emsworth to Oving and across the Manhood Peninsula joined Save our South Coast Alliance's latest virtual meeting earlier this month to share their concerns.

Attendees, including parish councillors and residents working on neighbourhood plans,

described how their villages would increase in size dramatically, with several more than doubling.

There are fears the area's unique environment and thriving economy will be irrevocably harmed by densely packed suburban housing, most of which will be unaffordable for local people.

One of the biggest criticisms levelled at the meeting was a lack of democratic accountability, with new housing planned

by large building groups, allowing for little or no local input and all before existing infrastructure deficits have been addressed.

Wastewater capacity, inadequate road links and the coast's vulnerability to climate change were some of the points raised.

All of the village representatives at the meeting called on CDC, the government and Chichester's MP to help 'before it is too late for the area'.

For more see pages 8&9.