

White Dirt Farm Application REFUSED by EHDC

Just about a year ago it became apparent that there was developer interest in White Dirt Farm and Taylor Wimpey came forward as the interested party. This led to a disappointing effort by Taylor Wimpey to consult with the community and some very misleading correspondence which suggested that discussions had been underway between EHDC and Taylor Wimpey for some time. This resulted in that persistent and very damaging rumour that building on WDF was a 'Done Deal'. For all of us who live in the community and are concerned about the risk of White Dirt Farm being developed it has been a worrying time.



We are very pleased to tell you that EHDC have REFUSED the White Dirt Farm planning application.

This type of planning application would normally go to a full planning committee and typically this would be for an application where it was a borderline decision or there is a difficult situation where the application is not desirable but there is no better option. That EHDC were confident in rejecting this application without taking it to the planning committee is very significant.

We have won Round One but it is of course likely that Taylor Wimpey may appeal and we may need to fight this off again with a visit and review by a planning inspector next year but this puts us in a very strong position. If you have a 'We Say No' sign then please keep it safe in the garage for now.

Both of us have tried to ensure the community were kept informed on the progress of this application and how to comment. As such the community view was heard very clearly by East Hants with several hundred responses, the overwhelming majority of which were in opposition to the development.



With the support of the other Horndean District Councillors we pressed for a Local 'Horndean Plan' to quickly identify the community view. The Officers at East Hants were fantastic and saw the opportunity to use this as short term evidence and then also long term consultation to feed into the allocations plan. This resulted in the very well attended 'Where To Build' housing consultation which identified Hazleton Farm as the overwhelmingly preferred location in the community. This planning event was so

successful that it has since been used across the District and has brought forward the draft allocations plan considerably. Part of the reason to object to White Dirt Farm is that the allocated site for Horndean is only "Land East Of Horndean", and as this application is now in we can demonstrate we have a plan to meet our community needs on a sustainable and better located site.

Most importantly of all though are the people who took the time to write to the planning officers and object, to Andy Stevens who set up his Facebook account to inform people locally and also the group of 20 or so volunteers who very kindly gave up their time to deliver leaflets to keep us all informed. Thank You. Without this support the voice would have been nowhere near as strong.

Finally, We also must acknowledge the officers at EHDC who have worked very hard to ensure the allocations plan was drawn together so quickly and to support the final decision in this application. They regularly take criticism and abuse from the general public and if you are minded to acknowledge their input then you can do so on: planningdev@easthants.gov.uk

Further details about the refusal will appear on www.horndeanmatters.com shortly and you can also read more about the allocation plan, and lots of other non housing related Horndean issues there too!

It only remains then to wish you and your household a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.
Cllrs Sara Schillemore and Guy Shepherd.