

Local Updates

Crouchlands Farm Rickmans Lane Plaistow Billingshurst West Sussex RH14 0LE

Residents will be aware that an application has been submitted for the regeneration of Crouchlands Farm. This is not the application for the housing development which will be submitted as a separate application but includes the glamping site, rural food and retail centre and equestrian centre. Residents had until the 29th of August to submit comments.

22/01726/FUL | Erection of 32 no. residential dwellings on land at Little Farm, Loxwood

I am receiving a high number of objections to this application and will be following this carefully to ensure I represent the views of residents. At last count over 100 objections had gone in and I will be submitting my own comments on this.

21/02849/FUL Land South West Of Willets Way Willetts Way Loxwood West Sussex - I have submitted my own objection to be read at the next planning committee as I am unable to attend in person. This can be found below (appendix 1)

Foxbridge Golf Club Development – The application went in on Friday 30th September and I will be liaising with Plaistow and Ifold Parish Council on this.

Land West Of Cornwood Townfield Kirdford West Sussex – The latest update I got on Monday 26th September was there still issues with the water neutrality situation so no further feedback on this.

Sustainability Appraisal (Loxwood Parish Council question)

I wrote to Tony Witty on 24th September and have yet to have a reply. I will chase if nothing mid-week.

Hyde Housing Complaints - Residents wanting to make a complaint about a Hyde property should, in the first instance, must complain direct to Hyde at this site:

<https://www.hyde-housing.co.uk/complaints/>

If this route does not resolve the issue, then residents can raise this with their District Councillor who will attempt to resolve the issue via the other routes available to them

CDC Updates

Trial of Evening Meetings

There was a trial of evening meetings this month which begun at 6pm. There were for the following meetings

Cabinet on 6 September

Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 20 September
Full Council on 27 September

I was delighted that we had the opportunity to trial these but regret that the trial could not be for longer as I don't think this will help achieve anything other than. Pay lip service to it. I was also disappointed that several members did not engage with the process and were quite hostile about it.

For context 95% of councils across England and Wales currently have evening meetings. I believe a mix of evening and daytime meetings will make local politics more inclusive both for people to have the option to serve as a councillor for their community and for residents to have their voice heard.

I will continue to push for this.

CDC are now consulting with members for feedback on how the trial went. My feedback was submitted on 2/10/22 and I am happy to forward this should Councillors be interested.

Communications

CDC are launching a new cost of living campaign, called 'Supporting You'. This aims to highlight the range of support that is available to those who may be struggling with the current cost of living, including help with finances; help with saving money on household bills; help with housing; help with health and wellbeing; and help for businesses. CDC will be delivering this campaign in partnership with the Observer series this September.

District Councillor Surgeries:

My next District Councillor Surgery Dates are as follows:

Saturday 15th October – The Foresters, Kirdford 12-2pm

Saturday 5th November – Old Mill Café, Wisborough Green, 12pm-2pm

Saturday 19th November – The Stag Inn, Balls Cross 12pm-2pm

Saturday 3rd November – The Coffee Cup, Ifold 12pm-2pm

I am also available for home visits or one to one meetings at alternative dates/venues upon request.

Get in touch! gbevans@chichester.gov.uk / 07958 918056.

Appenix 1

I would like to express my wholehearted objection to this planning application and hope that members will reject the planning officer's recommendation to permit.

I had previously written asking for the case officer to carry out a site visit prior to determination and am pleased to hear that there was agreement to do this.

However, I am disappointed that this has still been recommended for approval and that the IPS appears to outweigh Loxwood Parish Council's excellent Neighbourhood plan which is a democratically created document to act in the best interests of the Loxwood Parish residents.

Furthermore, it is a sure-fire way to lose the goodwill of several hardworking parish councillors who have dedicated hours of their own time in the creation of a neighbourhood plan and listened to their parishioners to try to act in a way which helps protect the aesthetic and environment of the village, and which is now being blatantly ignored by the recommendation to permit.

Loxwood Village continues to have unsustainable development foisted upon it time and time again without any consideration of its infrastructure which will buckle with speed and volume of development residents continue to face.

There are a number of other reasons that I am concerned about this application which are detailed below:

- This site sits outside the neighbourhood plan and was not included in the revised neighbourhood plan
- I believe that this development could have a lasting and negative impact on the properties which sit alongside the boundary - especially given the historical and listed nature of some of the properties that will surround it.
- The site proposed is a green space which I believe needs protecting. Did we not call a climate change emergency in this council? Why then are we willing to destroy our beautiful green spaces
- The Farm Close site was originally rejected for these reasons only to get through on the IPS. CDC now (as far as I am concerned) have a five-year housing supply so the IPS should not be used and therefore it would appear there are grounds not to approve this planning application.
- The solution to water neutrality raises several concerns and there needs to be greater clarity and scrutiny over this 'solution'
- There is a worry that the older properties will be encircled by housing estates, on a B road that is already inappropriately busy and fast, with additional cars, noise and disruption.
- The infrastructure cannot currently support this level of development.

Thank you members for listening to my concerns and that of others here today. Please do consider this carefully before making your decisions today.

