

Stebbing Parish Council Statement – PPWG 29th June 2017

SPC are disappointed, to say the least, but not at all surprised that Andrewsfield and Boxted Wood have been put into the Section 18 Draft Local Plan. From the outset of the Call for Sites and first Consultation it has been obvious that Andrewsfield & Boxted Wood were on the favourites list or as it suddenly and suspiciously became WoB. SPC believe that UDC has cynically used the WOB name penned originally by BDC to distract and misinform Stebbing residents about their future plans to bring a new town right into the parish of Stebbing and change the rural nature of our community forever.

We consider that last week's PPWG was a charade that was unfortunately perpetuated by the lack of attendance of the majority its members. We ask ourselves was this perhaps because they were showing disinterest, and a lack of care, which we doubt or at least we hope we can. Perhaps they knew the Draft 18 document had been produced and there was no need to hear the statements from the various challengers because they would make no difference.

Last week's largesse by the Chairman to the public contributors was another obvious patronising; cynical decision to make it obvious to the Inspector that there has been consultation with interested parties. Unfortunately up to now we doubt if one comment has been listened to and acted upon.

Last week Cllr Goodwin was told that she was wrong about her interpretation and understanding of the preferred option in the June 2017 Addendum Transport Report. We had a piece of paper waved in our faces to prove the presenter was right. SPC feel the presentation was cherry picked to present the wanted scenarios whereas to read it presents ambiguity from reading for example 5.2.13/14/16

Leading up to and from the start of this LDP, UDC has been involved in the SHMA with Epping Forest, Harlow and East Herts and where do they find themselves now? In cooperation with BDC. The evidence of this cooperation is sparse and SPC question whether BDC's plan will reach fruition for many reasons, such as infrastructure funding. Also, SPC strongly questions the coalescence of UDC and BDC and the potentiality of problems created for residents of the new settlement and of the wider Stebbing community.

I would refer you back to the open letter that SPC sent before last week's PPWG and we trust and hope that if this draft local plan goes forward that it stands up to scrutiny. Letter attached

Let me assure you SPC will fight "disproportionate loss of this best and most versatile agricultural land" (to quote planning wen rejecting an application close by), the potential and permanent damage and even loss of ancient woodland and local wildlife sites, the impact on the setting of an historic hamlet and lastly that the majority of the people in Stebbing Parish think this eventual

new town will be bad or very bad for their community and the character and nature of Stebbing forever.

Cllr Sandi Merifield