



12 October 2024

To: The Inspector of the Winchester District Local Plan

Dear Sir

Re: Regulation 19 Consultation

On behalf of the members of the Wickham Society, I write to express our disappointment that an agreement reached in May 2022 with Winchester City Council (WCC) to restrict the amount of housing allocation required in the Parish of Wickham and Knowle to just the development of 200 houses north of Ravenswood in the 2020/40 Local Plan, has now been extended to include the requirement of an additional 100 houses within Wickham. With the advent of 6,000 houses to be built at Welborne within 2 miles of our village over the next 20 years, the impact of any additional housing can only be detrimental to the fabric of our community, roads and conservation areas that we cherish and are determined to protect.

We acknowledge that with the change of central government, which is resolved to increase our housing supply, there is an inevitable consequence that will include the requirement for the additional 100 houses within our community. However, we are concerned that there has been very limited consultation with residents about where this housing should be located.

Earlier this year, the Parish Council took the decision to refrain from putting forward a preferred option for development and thus the decision was taken by WCC for inclusion within the current edition of the local plan. We are relieved to note that the revised plan is proposing that any additional housing will not take place until at least 2030, as we are currently absorbing the impact of an additional 200 houses in the last 4 years, which is regrettably having a negative impact on community cohesion.

However, we would like to propose that this time could be used to undertake further consultation with the local community to ensure that a considered and realistic approach is taken to ensure a robust and a well-supported options appraisal and conclusion is reached, that has solid community support.

We are very concerned that the current process has not achieved this outcome.

Yours faithfully

Wendy Greenish
Chairman of Wickham Society
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