

All newsletters can be found here: https://www.savewestofifield.co.uk/newsletters
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Homes England 'consultation'



SWOI was pleased with recent coverage of our response to Homes England's published report of their October 2022 exercise. In case you missed it, our press release is here:

In response to Homes England's recent report of their 'consultation' with residents in October and November 2022, Fenella Maitland-Smith of Save West of Ifield said 'This report is a work of fiction in terms of presenting the sentiment and content of people's responses - the fact that the written and verbal responses were overwhelmingly negative is ignored, and instead the few positive comments are cherry-picked and presented prominently above any others. A professional report would have clear analysis of the balance of positive to negative responses, and would present data on engagement and responses clearly rather than the confusing and meaningless collection of diagrams and wordclouds which we have been presented with. I'm surprised a government agency would put it's name to such an unprofessional piece of work'.

Representatives from Save West of Ifield attended all of the consultation sessions and engaged with other people attending. 'Most people we spoke to were strongly opposed to the plans. Many were angry and some people were even in tears.' They were particularly incensed by a video, produced by Homes England, which showed the true scale and impact of their plans on the area to be developed.

Unfortunately the whole process has been typical of a consultation that is NOT about listening and considering the views of local people but instead is focussed on ticking the 'consult' box and carrying on regardless. The report is yet another attempt by Homes England to put a positive spin on a massive housing development which will contribute to unsustainable population growth and put pressure on already overloaded infrastructure and services in the area.

If you're asking yourself how SWOI can make claims like this, then read on...

The Homes England report doesn't give any actual numbers: Consultation Summary and Feedback Report.pdf

But we can assess the responses by looking at the scores and comments here: https://westofifield.commonplace.is/

Of the 13 'boards' we were all consulted about, we analysed the detailed responses to the three with the largest number of comments: Masterplan (board 3), Neighbourhood Centre (4) and Final Comments.

Of the 143 scores (1-5) for the

Masterplan, 1 person gave it a 5
strongly positive. There were zero 4s.

2 people gave 3s, and 8 gave 2s - but
all the comments for the 2s and 3s
were pretty negative. 5 people didn't

score, and all their comments were negative. So 127 – around 90% – gave scores of 1 – strongly negative. And all but 1 of the rest gave negative comments.

Of the 63 scores for Board 4 – Neighbourhood Centre – there were 2 scores of 5 – strongly positive. Then 7 2s or 3s, and the rest – 86% – were 1s, ie strongly negative.

Of the 62 Final Comments (no scores were asked for), only 5 have positive elements, the rest are negative and most strongly so.

And finally ... the Homes England report makes heavy use of wordclouds saying they show 'the most raised key themes at the consultations'. Except they development road of the control of t

don't – they tell us nothing useful at all. **Homes England** have used a discredited data presentation 'tool' to avoid reporting the real themes of the consultations.

Dates for your Diary

April

15th – SWOI have a stand in West St (near Wilco) in Horsham, from 9am-5pm - come and say hello

19th – Fund-raising Quiz, 8pm at The Plough Rusper. Call 01293 871215 to book table – and dinner beforehand.

20th – SWOI are presenting at the Rusper Annual Parish meeting, Village hall, Rusper. More details below.

May

1st – Come and see SWOI at their stall at Ifield May Fayre.

3rd – Fund-raising **Quiz**, 8pm at The Plough Rusper. Call 01293 871215 to book table – and dinner beforehand.

7th – SWOI have a stall at Rusper Coronation street party.

23rd – SWOI are presenting at The Charlwood Parish AGM.

June

2nd – Race Night! A joint fund-raising event with Ifield Cricket Club. In the clubhouse on Ifield Village Green. Doors open 7.30. First race 8pm.

Sponsor a Race £20.00.

Buy a horse and become an owner £5.00.

Please contact <u>ifieldcc@hotmail.co.uk</u> for details of these.

17th – The Plough to Plough Challenge! A walk between The Ploughs in Rusper and Ifield through the proposed 3000 house site and back again

Start at The Plough Ifield at 11am. Suggested voluntary donation £5.00 per person

July

gth – Picnic on the Green. 2pm to 6pm. A family event on Ifield Village Green. Ifield Cricket Club will be opening for bar sales. Bring your own picnic. Nature trails, children's story time, games (small fee) and more. Suggested voluntary donation £5.00 per family

August

27th – **Ifest**. Visit the SWOI stall at Ifield Cricket Club's Ifest.

Have Your Say

20th April – **Rusper Annual Parish Meeting** 7.30pm Rusper Village Hall. This is not an AGM but more of a public meeting to discuss issues that matter. West of Ifield is on the agenda and Horsham councillors should be there so please come and make your voice heard, or just find out more.

4th May – **Polling day** for local elections. Ask your local candidates whether they will work to oppose the scale of WOI if they get into office. Find candidates here: https://whocanivotefor.co.uk/elections/?election_type=local

Can you help with SWOI leafletting during April? Please get in touch: savewestofifield@gmail.com.

Save West of Ifield Film



Committee members and film crew recently spent a fantastic weekend interviewing residents of Faygate, Rusper and Crawley, as well as Horsham District Councillors, and Crawley's MP Henry Smith and Crawley Labour Parliamentary Candidate Peter Lamb – about their views on the proposed West of Ifield development.

The film should be released very soon, so get your popcorn ready.

With massive thanks to everyone involved.



Placards

Do you live somewhere where you could put a SWOI placard

(similar to below) that is highly visible by foot or car?
Awareness is growing but there's more work to be done, and

placards are a great way to catch people's attention. New placards are being printed – if you were able to cover the cost of production by donating £20, that would be amazing. If you want a placard but aren't in a position to donate, then



do still please get in touch: savewestofifield@gmail.com .