

All newsletters can be found here: <https://www.savewestofifield.co.uk/newsletters>

Please email us with comments and to receive future editions via email: savewestofifield@gmail.com.

SWOI Public meeting

It was standing room only as more than 80 residents attended SWOI's AGM and public meeting in Rusper village hall on 14th September,

The first of three guest speakers was **Henry Smith MP** who ran through the reasons why the development was not viable – the unique character and heritage of the area, the impact on biodiversity and the unsustainable pressure on infrastructure such as roads, health services, public transport and water resources.

"This area has taken its fair share of new housing. Local people should not be called NIMBYs for pointing this out."



Henry explained that government policy is that brownfield sites should be developed – not greenfield – and that there is in fact plenty of brownfield land in the south-east.

Henry will deliver his petitions against the West of Ifield development to Parliament in October or November, and he encouraged the campaign not to give up:

"The Homes England plans can be defeated"

The next speaker was **Simon Collins of the River Mole Watch group**. Simon explained the likely impacts of further development on water resources in the area and on the Mole further downstream. Crawley is in the Upper Mole catchment and due to the surrounding hills and clay soil is a 'wet spot' (WSCC classification) and a Flood Risk Area (Environment Agency). Homes England have yet to provide detail on how they would mitigate the flood risk, and to what extent they are taking account of

increasing flood risk due to climate change. Any increase in flood risk, sewage overflows or other pollution will all adversely affect areas downstream in Surrey. The Mole is already a stressed river, with nine major sewage works discharging into it and for much of its length running through urban areas. Urbanising one of the remaining rural sections threatens the whole river still further.

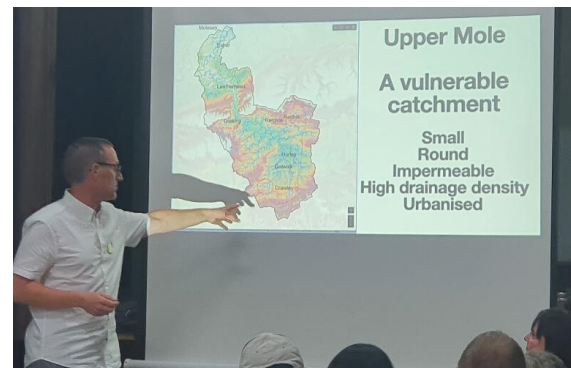
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<https://themolestory.com/2022/12/07/development-threats-to-runoff-in-the-upper-mole-basin/>

The final speaker was **Alison Cornell, West Sussex County Councillor**, who spoke about the horrendous impact of the plans on road layout and traffic volumes across a wide area. Homes England may claim that people will walk or cycle rather than use their cars – the so-called 15-minute neighbourhood – but there is no evidence at all that this might happen. In fact there will be thousands of additional car journeys a day, many rat-running through the small roads of Rusper and Crawley.

Alison also noted the lack of any sensible regional planning process, and the fact that Crawley residents have no formal voice in the planning process despite being most affected by the development.

Questions and points from the floor covered a wide range of topics, and Fenella Maitland-



Smith (SWOI Chair) summed up "The level of support for the campaign and the strength of the arguments we heard from our speakers is all very positive. As Henry Smith said, the Homes England proposals can be defeated. And given what we've heard they certainly should be, and we'll be fighting hard over the coming months."

In their reviews of the past 12 months Fenella and Cathy Durrant (SWOI Treasurer) thanked all those who had helped the campaign, and set out the future challenges and need for funding. The AGM reports can be found on the SWOI website: <https://www.savewestofifield.co.uk/>

So what now?

We expect the new Horsham Local Plan to be published by the end of this year, but **we must all fight NOW to persuade Horsham Council NOT to include the West of Ifield**. Horsham and the Planning Inspector will take the number of objections into account – Rookwood site was initially proposed as a more suitable location than West of Ifield, but was dropped because so many objections were received.

If we don't all act now the door is open for Homes England and their planning application will zoom in on winged feet.

So what should we all be doing?

NOW is the time to Lobby Lobby Lobby! How?

Write

- To HDC Strategic Planning and Council leaders. Photo evidence is great!
- To the papers.
- To your local MP and Councillors.

PS. Save your letter to use again later.

All the **addresses** you need are here:

<https://www.savewestofifield.co.uk/take-action>

And **arguments and evidence**: watch the SWOI film:

<https://www.youtube> and see the SWOI website:

<https://www.savewestofifield.co.uk/>

Spread the word. It is shocking how many people who would be directly impacted by WOI don't know about it. Don't assume your friends know.

- Shout from the rooftops!
- Download and put up a poster
<https://www.savewestofifield.co.uk/take-action>
- Put up a placard email savewestofifield@gmail.com

Keep up to date. Keep reading our website <https://www.savewestofifield.co.uk> and Facebook page to know what to do and when. For instance – news of protests, or when the Local Plan consultation is starting.

Volunteer. We're always crying out for volunteers. If you can help us in any way from having specialist knowledge to pushing newsletters though doors please let us know.

LATER is the time to Object Object Object! How?

After the Local Plan is published

Write and object during the 6 week Regulation 19 consultation period. We will keep you up to date about when this starts and how to do it. The wording from your previous letter could come in handy.

Be ready to come to a protest.

And finally ...

At the AGM we reported that SWOI has almost £9,000 available currently, which is probably enough to complete our Reg 19 consultation response but won't stretch to fighting Homes England's planning application, and any legal fees later in 2024. So if you possibly can please **DONATE**.

– <https://www.savewestofifield.co.uk/take-action>

Account name: Save West Of Ifield, Number: 55426514

Sort code: 53-50-39. It's a Business account.

Dates for your Diary

October

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

21st – **TBC** – History and Hauntings walk around Ifield.

November

7th – Fund-raising **Quiz**, 8pm at The Plough Rusper. Call 01293 871215 to book table – and dinner beforehand.

11th – **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. All bets £1, plus buy as many horses as you like for £5 each to maximise winnings. Please contact ifieldcc@hotmail.co.uk for details.

The June Race Night was packed and a LOT of fun!! And SWOI and ICC jointly raised nearly £500.

December

5th – Fund-raising **Quiz**, 8pm at The Plough Rusper. Call 01293 871215 to book table – and dinner beforehand.

We had a great time on the **Plough to Plough walk** on 16th September. Seven miles through gorgeous countryside, and a great lunch and a pint / glass in the middle – and after!

The dogs enjoyed it too except when a small herd of donkeys decided they were fascinating!

