

FOCUS

Winter
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on Newport, Quendon, Rickling & Widdington

Edited by Cllr Peter Wilcock & Cllr Andrew Yarwood

www.saffronwaldenlibdems.org.uk

Say No to Tory Housing Plans

Don't Open The Flood Gates To Thousands More Houses

Conservative-controlled Uttlesford District Council has launched a public consultation on where to put the 4,200 new houses that the Labour government is forcing on our District.

There are four options. Option 1 puts the houses in Walden, Stansted and Dunmow. Options 2 and 3 both put 200 additional houses in Newport. New housing in Newport could have benefits - supporting shops, pubs etc. We want to see more affordable houses for local people like Bowker Close and Wellsmead - not endless estates.

Option 4

Option 4, the Conservatives' "preferred" option, may also allocate some housing to Newport, along with 3,000 houses to a new town near Elsenham. The existing road system would be unable to cope with the new town's traffic, without the roads provided by a second runway at Stansted. Liberal Democrats have long campaigned against a second runway, which will be disastrous for the whole district. Option 4 includes proposals for a new secondary school which would close Mountfitchet High School and could have an impact on Newport Free Grammar School.

Consensus Wrecked

The options were railroaded through the council by the Conservatives without any discussion with Lib Dem and Independent councillors - wrecking years of consensus among all parties on dealing with housing and airport threats. Three months after the plans first emerged, the Tories have failed to provide any evidence to justify the proposals.



Peter Wilcock, Andrew Yarwood and the Lib Dems will fight for affordable houses that people want, like the new Bowker Close development.

No Proper Investigation

The Conservatives voted down a proposal from Liberal Democrat councillors to have a proper, detailed investigation by the council's officers into where to put the 4,200 additional new homes.

Parish Councils have, for many months, been calling for a proper capacity study before decisions on housing are made.

The lack of a proper investigation opens the process up to legal challenge, which means that whatever the Council decides could be overturned - and a different solution imposed instead.

"Conservative Councillor Sue Barker has been cast as Scrooge this week after pressing ahead with consultation over Christmas on a controversial plan for 3,000 new homes."

"She told outraged residents: 'Oh well, you'll have a week off to think about it'."

- Herts & Essex Observer, 8th. November

Make Your Voice Heard!

Only about 200 people responded to Uttlesford's last consultation on where to locate future housing.

The next stage in the consultation will be the leaflet delivered in November. The consultation ends on January 11th.

The document looks pretty, with lots of chocolate box photos, but there is not a single map and nothing about the need for, or the scale of, affordable houses.

Cllr Andrew Yarwood says "It is vital that people from this area respond to the consultation and voice their concerns about the potential allocations in our villages."

Overleaf: How The Lib Dems Would Do It Better

