23/05/2012 17:09
From: "Ann Haig McVitty"
Re: Comments on Modification Core Strategy

Ann C Haig McVitty BA(Hons.)Law/SPA: Dip.Law/Soc.

Lynette Boynton (Programme Officer) (Modifications to WDC Core Strategy Proposals)
Wealden District Council,
Pine Grove,
Crowborough TN6 1DH 23rd May, 2012

Dear Ms Boynton.

Re Consultation on Core Strategy Modifications – PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL' s CORE STRATEGY PROPOSALS. - **CONTINGENCY SITE OFF THE A.26 N. of Crowborough**

I write as an individual member of the public, but being an ex Wealden District Councillor, with a very long history of interest in the development proposals throughout the district concentrating on development in and around Crowborough in particular. Most of the submissions I have made over the years, to the Crowborough Plan, and all the major public consultations have been geared to the protection of the Countryside/arboriculture and wildlife habitats, twinned for the need for housing of the "right type" around the villages – (so that the young are not forced to leave their home background) and so that there is affordable housing for those employed in the essential services, schools, hospitals, police, care of the elderly local government etc. etc.) I am well aware that these two essential objectives, very often do not sit together happily.

As I have had to leave my submissions on the Core Strategy Modifications to the last moment - owing to my continued involvement with everything to do with local government and Wealden District Council – not assisted by the fact that the entire administration of Wealden is moving down to Hailsham in July – leaving those who speak for the North of the District and represent them, "in some considerable difficulty"; I do apologise that I am afraid I cannot provide you with either **my own reference number**, as a contributor to many of the Wealden Public Consultations on the policies for Planning and Development over the past lO years etc. or **the particular reference number for this particular Site –** which I know the Inspector has suggested be ***" ruled out" in favour of Development to the South East of Crowborough.***

My views on this, are likely to be similar to those I know will have been submitted by Crowborough Town Council; but from my own knowledge of the two areas over many years, and acknowledging the need for additional housing in Crowborough; BUT – again I must emphasise "of the right type" ***(because I fear that the Government's emphasis on encouraging economic development to start to get us out of***

***the financial mess the Country is in – is noticeably encouraging "Development Companies" to hone in on any apparently available land, and concentrate on building large executive type houses, for the simple reason, that that is where their main profit exists*)**; **I have to say that I think that the Site to the North of the A.26 on the road out of Crowborough towards Tunbridge Wells; below the Goldsmiths Recreation Centre, although it lies within the AONB, is infinitely preferable to the expansion of the Site at the other side of Crowborough to the SE.**

This is because the existing access to that other site to the South of Crowborough , is already extremely difficult, and certainly offers no scope for improvement, and has been causing considerable planning and development problems as it is. (The problem may have arisen initially , because, what one looks at on a plan/map is often very different to what topographical knowledge reveals)

To return to my suggestion that the site to the North of the A.26 is where new housing development for Crowborough should go. The access to it is good, or could easily be made so. In fact although it is technically within the AONB, it is only riding on the top of a buss on that A 26 entrance into Crowborough from Tunbridge Wells, that can even see those fields. From Eridge on cannot see that site at all. That whole area was originally put into the AONB at the time of the erection of the Goldsmiths Recreation Centre, and probably should be looked at again.

The fact that the residents of a new housing development where I suggest, in supported by the fact that they have the Recreation Centre, the running track, the camping site all near at hand. ie. many of the facilities that are certainly not available on to the Southern Site.

I do hope the Inspector will be able to reconsider his recommendations for this housing development.

With apologies for the haste in which I have had **to write this.**

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)
Ann Haig McVitty LLB.law etc.