8th August 2012

Dear

RE: CONSULTATION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

We wish to object strongly to the proposal to include sustainable development principles within the Core Strategy Document that Wealden Council are proposing.

This proposal is unsound for several reasons.

1. The letter sent out to the public asking for opinions on this was flawed, as it did not make any sense. Many people who received this letter said that they did not understand what it was saying. We had to phone the Officer in charge and ask for the letter to be explained to us. We have degrees, but not in planning!! We consider ourselves to be intelligent individuals; however neither of us could make sense of this letter!! When we queried the way the letter was written we were told that legally the points had been made – we pointed out that legally that may be so (we still have no idea on this point) but morally and ethically the council have a responsibility to ensure that the public are given information in a way that encourages and enables educated discussion and responses, particularly when it is such an important issue as this one where so many members of the public wish to be involved in objecting to it.

   Or is it that you do not want us to respond and then you can say no-one felt strongly enough to respond??????

   We feel that the dreadful letter/email sent out will have put people off responding to it. No-one we have spoken to has said that they understood the letter and several said that they were going to do as we did and phone the office to ask for a human to explain it.

2. Sustainable development and the principles behind it would not be in Uckfield's best interests. Developers would be able to build how and when they like with little or no regard for the current residents of the town. This must not be allowed to happen.

3. As so many people have pointed out on many occasions there is not the infrastructure in place for development on the scale you propose in the Uckfield development of 1,000 houses etc.

4. Consideration must be given to current residents who keep saying WE DO NOT WANT THIS DEVELOPMENT. When will we be listened to???

5. There is not the road network to support the traffic needs that this new development will require and gridlocked Uckfield will just get worse and worse.

6. You suggest that you propose mitigation options for this development to stop people going to the Ashdown Forest. We would suggest that Uckfield will be so crowded that people will flock to the Forest just to get away from everyone else for a quiet walk in peace, which currently we can do at the Victoria Park. With an extra 4,000 people in the town (based on 4 per new property) this will make the town jam packed and will affect the quality of life substantially of current residents.

   We require that you log our comments as a strong objection to the proposed principle of including sustainable development within your proposal.

   Yours faithfully

   Mr & Mrs Spicer