15th December 2011

Dear Ms Benton,

Matter 8

In WCS submissions 2011, Wealden District Council failed to address the current shortage of amenities and recreation spaces in Willingdon and Polegate and there are NO plans for improvements to bring the area in line to national standards. In addition, it proposes for the developments to be built on the existing recreation ground which is also a green gap between Willingdon and Polegate, Which the majority of residents and Parish Council & Town Council wish to remain.

In page 43 ***6.22***

"Both Polegate and Willingdon have a high proportion of elderly residents and because of their location and the limited range of facilities available locally, the areas rely heavily on Eastbourne for their employment and shopping requirements. A new GP surgery and medical centre has recently been granted planning consent in Willingdon. Average incomes in Polegate are substantially below the rest of the District, and the area also has the lowest average house prices".

Wealden District Council has submitted the funding to build council houses in Tower Mill Place in early this year. The bid for funding had to be submitted by 3 May 2011.

The council was aware that the new medical centre proposed in Townmill Place would not be built due to funding issues. Despite this, the council failed to inform the general public and continued to mislead local residents by stating that the new surgery would meet the needs of residents within the strategy. The matter is very serious; as this is an important facility for this area, it is possible to affect the outcome of the consultation results.

Future information can be found on Wealden District Council Local Authority New Build Housing Project background to item 6.
http://council.wealden.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=292&MId=3229&Ver=4

The Core Strategy has No plan for improvement to Polegate High Street?

It failed to sustain and strengthen the local economy.

Yours sincerely,

Oi Lin Shing

Wealden District Councillor