

WORKING GROUP AGAINST OVER-DEVELOPMENT

Wealden District Association of Local Councils

10th October 2022

To: Chairs of Parish/Town Councils and Parish Meetings in Wealden

Dear Chair,

NEW SUPPORT GROUP AND GUIDELINES TO SUPPORT COUNCILS

WGOD was set up with the aim of getting the Government to scrap the “standard method” which is the cause of the unrealistic and damaging housing targets in our area. There is, as you know, work going on behind the scenes, meeting with MPs, Wealden District Councillors, drafting letters, lobbying etc. We are delighted that 41 out of 42 parish/town councils of Wealden have signed up to this group.

Following our meeting on April 8th at Horam Village Hall and in response to suggestions made at that meeting, we decided to offer a support service to councils that are facing an unwanted large scale planning application. We are writing to let you know how this will work for you, what we can offer, and how the Support Group will operate.

We are providing a dedicated email address that you can contact to request support: wealdenlocalcouncils@gmail.com. If you want to contact us, you will need to provide the following information: name of council, your name, your role, contact details including telephone number, planning application number + address and description of proposal, and what you would like help with. WGOD Support Group will offer advice and guidance but will not do the work for the requesting council.

It is important to stress that we are all volunteers and none of us claim to be planning experts. However, we have all dealt with and fought unwanted Planning Applications, galvanised local support, involved the local press, drafted council responses, spoken at Planning Committee, and dealt with appeals. We are willing to share our expertise and experience with others.

We also enclose some planning guidelines which we hope will help councils when objecting to a planning application. If you consider that our guidelines could be improved in any way, we would be pleased to receive your suggestions.

Furthermore, if there is anyone willing to join this support group, please email wealdenlocalcouncils@gmail.com and let us know. Also, the WGOD needs to be making a more concerted effort on a press campaign to support our initiatives. Therefore, we need to co-opt a person to oversee press matters and possibly social media. We would like to hear from anyone who has a reasonable flair for publicity and who may want to work with us.

Yours sincerely

Kaye Crittall, Councillor Ninfield Parish Council

Nick Daines, Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) Volunteer and Wealden Lead

Alison Dunbar-Dempsey, Vice Chair Chalvington with Ripe Parish Council and Planning Lead

Christine Hanson, Councillor Westham Parish Council

Karen Nicholls, Councillor Hailsham Town Council

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