

This latest version of the Draft Local Plan published this month is a significant body of work.

The scope and level of detail is impressive and we now have the complete analysis of Havant Borough Council's housing growth plans. The plans for 9,500 new houses, we understand, now satisfy the government and PUSH targets.

In the case of Hayling, this represents a doubling of the housing allocation to 1000 units from the previous revision. This, together with a major expansion of the Tech Park and a development on the Hayling seafront to attract tourism adds pressure on an already overstretched road network. The ongoing transport assessment of the A3023 is nowhere near completion as confirmed at my meeting with the road authorities this morning (estimate February/March) and consequently the public consultation starting in January will not (certainly in the case of Hayling) provide the residents with a reasonable or complete picture of the proposed environment against which they can formulate a considered option. This is unacceptable.

Now it is time for you ... the members and officers of the Council ... to display vision and positively direct the development companies' projects to provide a focused future environment which people should be proud to see, and be seen in.

You must take every opportunity to improve the quality of life through the provision of centres of culture and entertainment, constructed with worthy architecture, excellent primary services and a sustainable infrastructure sized and expandable to support the future ... as you are voting to cover almost all of the Borough with this Urban sprawl.

Do not accept the lowest common denominator with acres of pink brick boxes differentiated only by the architrave over the front door, and a local infrastructure based on legal minimums on road widths and parking etc. .

And please hold this thought in focus ...

In 10-20 years' time, when future generations are evaluating the quality of their living environment, their judgments will be a measure of the decisions you make now ... moving forward with this plan.

You must get this right the first time as there will be no land left to fix mistakes.

Dave Parham
Save Our Island