

Deputation to Full Council, 9 Sept 2020, James Graham, Campdown bird recorder.

Local Plan with changes new policy EX2 Warblington on page 227 and changed policy H40 Campdown on page 334.

Thank you for reading this deputation.

We are blessed here in SE Hampshire with two harbours that draw thousands of waders and geese every winter so why are HBC so keen to trash this jewel in our crown; and this is what Policy H40 – Campdown will undoubtedly do.

You will be aware a planning application has been submitted to build up to 780 dwellings on the Campdown fields which has resulted in an unprecedented number of objections from all quarters including Natural England, Historic England, Sport England, County Ecologist, RSPB, Chichester Harbour Conservancy, Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, Hampshire & Isle Of Wight Wildlife Trust, International Wader Study Group, The Curlew Forum, Woodland Trust, Havant Civic Society, the list goes on. Most are concerned by what would be the loss of a vital overwintering feeding area for the now 'Red listed' Curlew.

Campdown emerged as a suitable housing site in the December 2016 Housing Statement which was for 350 dwellings; in last year's version of the Local Plan this had increased by 40% to 560. This revised document increases the number even further to 650.

In their response to the Campdown planning application Natural England had this to say:

"It is our advice that with a very significant reduction in housing numbers at the site, there may be potential for impacts to be minimised through an on-site nature reserve."

To date the developer has made no attempt to follow NE's advice to reduce housing numbers or create an on-site nature reserve.

In an attempt to mitigate for the loss of Campdown the revised Local Plan proposes a brand new policy, EX2 - Warblington Farm on page 227. Natural England had the following to say:

"We would also be happy to discuss alternative offsetting sites through our charged advice service. However, it is Natural England's initial view that this may be extremely difficult given the special function of the existing site."

Council officers claim this revised Local Plan is "**Evidence Based**" but nowhere do they offer any proof that the Warblington mitigation scheme will work. The creation of a new nature reserve is welcome but there is no evidence it would replace what would be lost at Campdown.

If our curlews struggle through the winter due to loss of high tide feeding areas they may not be in good enough condition at the end of the winter to go on to have a successful breeding season.

I therefore urge you to take Natural England's advice and refuse to accept the inflated housing number of 560 new dwellings and reduce it to the more ecologically manageable 350 you agreed to in the 2016 Housing Statement.