

Deputation to speak at the meeting on Planning policy committee 30th May 2023

I do recognise there are many reasons why the following have been included in the sites for development – Long Copse Lane, Nore Barn, and the Horse field, Westwood and Southleigh.

Emsworth residents will have strong objections and I support these for the following reasons:

1. These sites will not be developed in a way that meets the local needs for housing which is a mainly for 1 and 2 beds.
2. The flawed, aka broken housing system, put the type of houses being built in the hands of developers who must show a profit quarterly or annually so cannot support the infrastructure that is required and have a history of breaking commitments to build surgeries etc.
3. More homes on these sites will further stress the town with increased traffic, insufficient school places and room on GP lists, etc.
4. The Horse field/ Nore barn site development will irreparably alter the character of the AONB and there are only 43 ANOBs in the country.
5. Nitrate mitigation is neutral but after houses are sold the owners can undo the features which keep the site neutral such as covering part of their property with addition non porous surfaces. The assumption that only 110 litres of water per occupant per day will be used is easily exceeded. The harbour is increasing damaged by nitrates and phosphates. These are preventing seagrass from growing. Seagrass is 35 times better at capturing carbon than a tropical rainforest as well as providing nursery for fish we need for food and biodiversity that we need for resilience.
6. More homes will go to Buy to let and AirBnB as local people cannot afford the new builds and this impacts on local businesses and residents in negative ways.
7. Modern developments do not always have pleasing aesthetics.