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From: stephen christie [Redacted]
Sent: 09 March 2015 16:45
To: Planning Policy
Subject: Welbourne

Stephen Christie

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Sir/Madam,

The purpose of this letter is to convey my concern re the Welbourne development in North Fareham. Whilst I understand the need to build houses in this country to deal with the burgeoning population, to build 6,500 homes in this one location will have a catastrophic effect on the villages of the Meon Valley including the one in which I live, Wickham.

The road infrastructure through the Meon Valley is already overstretched and traffic queues form during rush hour through Wickham every week day. It frequently takes my wife 25 minutes to do the round trip from the edge of Wickham to Waltham Chase and back to Wickham again at about 8 o'clock in the morning to get the children to school, and this is from a point where she does not have to negotiate the queues within Wickham as we live at the exit point of the village. The trip can be done easily in less than 10 minutes outside the rush hour. Wickham is a 13th Century village and is not capable of dealing with the high volumes of traffic it already bears, so the increase which will inevitably come from an additional 15,000 people living in Welbourne. I am aware that the plan contains provision for improved motorway access and public transport. However this will not stop a large number of people needing to drive through Wickham in order to get to Winchester, up the Meon Valley on the A32, or through to Botley to join the motorway at Hedge End. Many people openly admit that they use the Wickham route as a cut through to the M27. The traffic is worsening every year.

In order to measure the impact, I would like to suggest that Welbourne is initially only approved for say 1,500 houses, and once these are fully occupied, the impact on the surrounding area can be effectively measured and a decision to increase the size of the development can be taken on the basis of knowledge rather than estimates and guess work.

This is an irreversible decision and I would urge caution before the future of the Meon valley villages is ruined for this and all future generations.

Faithfully,