

WSSC Full Council meeting 18th April 2008

Transcript

The above meeting was recorded and transmitted as a webcast. This is a transcript and FEH hold a copy of the webcast should it be required to verify this transcript.

First speech by Councillor Doctor Walsh

“Thank you Chairman. My question is on 41 – the so-called Eco-Town. Chairman, is the Cabinet Member aware of the, and I realise the Cabinet Member isn’t here which is a bit of a tragedy today, is the Cabinet Member aware that the timescale for the consultation on this proposal is extremely tight and that therefore any response from this county council will have to be produced extremely rapidly to allow members to have an input into it. Is, the Leader presumably is going to answer on behalf of the Cabinet Member, is he aware that, in spite of the prospectus which has been published by the interested parties being headed Ford Airfield, that the vast majority of the land that’s being proposed for this new town development is in fact prime agricultural land and is much more than Ford Airfield.

Further, is he aware that the proposals have actually been around in one form or another for some 5 or 6 years and that this was a pure speculative building proposal long before the proponents hitched their flag to the Eco-Town mast that has been run up recently and that this is nothing more or less than, its less than an eco-Ford and more of an eco-fraud. Thank you Chairman”.

Second speech by Councillor Doctor Walsh

“Thank you for that very full answer. Is the leader of the council aware that the proposal at the moment refers to the building of 5,000 houses and yet the developers propose a secondary school, a new secondary school, two new primary schools, link roads to the A27, improvements to the Arundel Bypass being brought forward, improvements to the Chichester Bypass being brought forward, and a new railway station to be moved from the existing Ford location. Does he join with me in disbelief that this could be funded out of 5,000 houses and that perhaps we are looking at a kite flying proposal for nearer 15,000 and 20,000 houses to be able to fund that sort of development gain?”

Third speech by Councillor Doctor Walsh

“Chairman, can I thank Henry again for that answer. Is he aware that Arun District Council has set up a Select Committee to examine these proposals over a week or 10 day period? Will he commit the county council to taking part in that process if requested and equally I am sure Arun would be happy to take part in any discussions that might be taking place here as well?”