

DRAFT PRESS RELEASE BURWASH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Park Lane Homes Ltd threatens judicial review to quash Burwash Neighbourhood Plan.

Park Lane Homes Ltd, owners of the Watercress Fields site at Strand Meadow, have notified Rother District Council (RDC) of their intention to apply for a judicial review to quash RDC's decision that the Burwash Neighbourhood Plan meets the accepted basic conditions and should the plan proceed with the referendum in September, will bring a legal injunction.

Burwash Parish Council were notified of the letter on 28th July by RDC's Head of Strategy & Planning Service, Tim Hickling.

Burwash Parish Council have worked with RDC on producing the neighbourhood plan, after lengthy and wholly supportive consultation with the community. It was agreed at an early stage in the process that although it accepted the target of 52 new homes between now and 2028 set by RDC, it could not allocate specific sites for the homes. This approach was backed by both RDC and the independently appointed examiner and is reflected in his comprehensive report.

Chairman of the Parish Council Robert Franklin stated "We [the Parish Council] refute this attempt by a property developer to influence the democratic legal planning process and are confident that Rother District Council will fight this attempt to block the Burwash Neighbourhood Plan. It should be remembered that a neighbourhood plan is designed to reflect the views of the residents and the referendum will give residents a chance to accept the plan if they agree with it."

Rother District Council had already approved the neighbourhood plan and published their decision statement outlining the plans main aims & their approval. The Parish Council were preparing to promote the referendum date to the community of Burwash when the news of the potential legal action hit.

Both County Councillor, Eleanor Kirby-Green and District Councillor, John Barnes MBE are behind Burwash in their push to see RDC fight this threatened legal action and stand up for the democratic process. The potential delay to the plan being made would be a disappointment to the group of Councillors and residents that have worked so hard to complete the process which has so far taken over four years.

A spokesman for the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group stated, "this is a blatant attempt to disenfranchise the people of Burwash and go against their wishes to develop a considered approach to planning in our unique area of outstanding natural beauty."

ENDS

For further comment or to register your opinion please contact Emma Neil, Clerk, Burwash Parish Council on parishclerk@burwachpc.org.uk