

Crossing concern for new homes project

by Roger Green

roger.green@littlehamptongazette.co.uk

RESIDENTS are sceptical of the benefits building more than 1,200 in north Littlehampton will bring to the town.

Hundreds turned out to a public exhibition of plans to develop an 85 hectare site north of the railway line, at All Saints Church, Wick, last Thursday.

Held on behalf of land-owners Greencore, the event was the first chance residents have had to see what a planning application, submitted to Arun District Council two weeks ago, contains, after more than three years of public consultation.

As well as up to 1,240 homes, the application also includes a new primary school, care home, shops and offices, and the Fitzalan Link Road.

Chris Lock, of Lyminster Road, said: "I think we need more houses, but we have been made promises before by developers, and they have not been kept.

"As long as the council has a way of enforcing these promises, then I think it will be fine."

Also contained in the application is a proposal to the close Toddington Lane level crossing, which worried some.

Wilf Daggett, of Barn Close, Littlehampton, said: "The effect of the closure of the level crossing would be to isolate about 500 homes between the railway line and Worthing Road from any straightforward route to the west or north."

Beryl Maddam, of Holly Drive, agreed.

"It's very nice where we are now, but closing the crossing will cut us off."

Cathy Beare, of Steele Crescent, said she was concerned closing the crossing would put more pressure on the pedestrian crossing at the junction of Wick Street and Worthing Road, and further increase congestion.

"All the cars will have to go down to the existing crossing, and then the whole area will be blocked up," she added.

She and Beryl both agreed the number of houses was not excessive for the site.



PLANS REVEALED: Visitors to All Saints Church Wick look at details of the North Littlehampton development exhibition

Picture by Stephen Goodger L11046H11

Arthur Croft, of Arundel Road, said he hoped the development, which would include a new community centre, youth centre and sports pitches, would be good for his beloved Wick FC.

"It's all well and good saying we don't want to build lots of houses," he said, "but when we are stacking up on top of each other, what can you do?"

Tony Burton, managing director of Burton Property, which has been working as part of a consortium of developers and architects to bring the proposals together, said they had tried as much as possible to reflect the requests of local residents.

"Of course, you can't satisfy everybody.

"We can talk to people and try to address their concerns, but development is not always welcome."

He added he hoped, should the scheme be improved, that over the decade or so it took to build, there would be more and more community involvement in

how it evolved.

Any planning permission granted, he went on to say, would include "trigger points", meaning certain pieces of infrastructure would need to be provided before X number of houses could be built.

To comment on the application, write to Planning Department, Arun District Council, Arun Civic Centre, Maltravers Road, Littlehampton, BN17 5LF.

● For more views on the scheme, see Your Views, pages 20 and 21.