

Who are we?

Set up in response Taylor Wimpey's proposal for 150 houses on fields at the heart of the village, No to Wivelstown – NTWT for short – is a group of 17 local residents from around the village. A further 70 supporters have pledged to help with the campaign as and when the need arises and the group has some 586 followers on their Facebook page. We've got members from all walks of life and all political leanings. We have people with years of experience in council workings, drainage and water services, environmental, mental health and media. What unites us is the desire to protect our village and the interests of its residents – many of whom chose to live here because it is a village and not a town. We meet monthly to discuss ideas and tactics for keeping the pressure on and ensure that we are on top of developments.



In this issue

Development Update

Successes Nearby

Meet the Team

What's Been Happening

Get Involved

Map of Developmet

Development Update

Wivelsfield currently has 150 houses under construction in three different developments.

These developments have now been joined by the threat of a further 446 houses on five separate sites around the village. This does not include the 330 houses also being planned to the north of the parish at Lunces Hill.

At the moment residents can comment upon the plans for only one of these development – Beau Properties application to build 80 houses on the fields north of Green Road which would have an entry and exit point adjacent to the Taylor Wimpey site close to the War Memorial.

Taylor Wimpey's proposal for 150 houses just south and east of the Primary School is still awaiting decision following the submission of plans back in January with the consultation period having closed in March. Similarly the smaller development by Greenrock Homes opposite Charter's Gate is awaiting decisions from Lewes Council.

Other projects such as 100 homes at Golf Course Farm (Sigma Homes) and the 60 further houses on Ditchling Road (Welbeck) are in consultation phase so have not yet had planning applied for.

Following investigation by members of the No To Wivelstown team it is worth noting that there are no plans for new doctors, dentists, school places, road upgrades, public transportation routes, new sewerage facilities or main drainage systems.

To comment on Beau Properties plans please visit the Lewes District Council Planning Portal at:

https://planningpa.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=S_ZQOXXJDK7500&activeTab=summary

Deadline is 10th September so if you want to your voice to count then don't delay!

In Numbers

Houses currently
under construction
in the parish

150

Proposed additional
houses within the
Parish

446

Houses being
proposed bordering
Wivelsfield

375

New Development
houses currently on
the market and
unsold within three
miles of the Parish

872



It's often difficult to imagine we have any hope of protecting our village from becoming one large housing estate joined to Burgess Hill or Haywards Heath. In the face of government targets for new homes, the lack of an approved local plan and therefore no adopted neighbourhood plan it's so difficult to remember that plans do and will be rejected. A local and neighbourhood plan would certainly help by providing the framework for planning and keep in check the vast number of planning approaches that we are experiencing. But even in recent days we've seen instances of plans being rejected or thoroughly challenged based on the same key points we make for our village – the lack of infrastructure and the loss of landscape..

Just this week Mid Sussex Council has rejected a proposal by Millers for 80 houses at Collwell Farm off the A272 out of Haywards Heath

The Mid Sussex Council committee felt there would be an adverse impact on the character of the area. It's unsustainable location was also key – residents would be largely reliant on cars. The site was also deemed to have a negative impact on heritage assets such as the Conservation Area and listed buildings as well as the loss of trees on the site.

In Horsham, the council has launched a judicial review into the Secretary of State's recent granting of permission for 800 homes on the site of Horsham Golf and Fitness. This permission was given after the government overturned the Council's original rejection of the proposal due to unsustainability of the site and a lack of active travel options for residents.

Where There's Action There is Hope

A round up of local success
stories in the fight against
loss of green spaces and
village life....

Perhaps the biggest win was Thakeham, West Sussex where the Government's Planning Inspectorate has dismissed an appeal by developers and upheld Horsham Council's original decision to refuse planning for 247 houses. Thakeham is a similar village to Wivelsfield and the inspectorate agreed "that limited village facilities and the distance to essential services, including Thakeham Primary School, would have left future residents heavily dependent on car travel".

Unsustainability is key for our village and we'd be interested in your stories about getting school places, doctors surgeries or perhaps you've been unable to take up a job because of transport barriers? Let us know by sending an email to: notowivelstown@gmail.com



NTWT joins in for Village Day and Pub Family Weekend

NTWT committee member Simon decided to raise awareness of our campaign at the the Wivelsfield Village Day back in July.

Simon brought his Ford 91A V8 truck dressed up with the campaign's messages. The truck has previously played an important part in a blockbuster movie – Roger Rabbit starring Bob Hoskins back in the 80s. It made a real swell attraction on the day enjoyed by young and old, much as they day itself.

Following the success earlier in the year of providing face to face support to Wivelsfield residents who wanted to comment during the Taylor Wimpey consultation period, NTWT were back at The Cock Inn during it's family weekend to offer support and advice to those wanting to comment on the Beau Properties plans. It was great for the team to meet with lots of people and discuss the issue and we'd like to thank team and The Cock for letting us be part of the day.

We also made sure to attend all the recent open days for some of the homes under construction. These homes are now a reality so we weren't there to demand they be taken down, but simply to let potential buyers know some of the difficulties they may face with accessing services such as doctors, dentists, schools and public transportation. We certainly gave them a little food for thought whilst they sipped their Pimms!

Historical Wivelsfield

Did you know that Wivelsfield doesn't just boast gorgeous landscape but is also home to a whole host of history? The Parish Council has devised a map of all the historical treasures that surround us. To celebrate this the team at NTWT are busy devising a social walk of the trail along with some other community activities this autumn. Watch this space for the date and more detail!



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Object!

- Take the time to make a comment. What is it about the development that worries you? Let the planning committee know.
- We know that sustainability is a key in planning decisions these days as is connectivity. These are worth considering in any comment you make.
- Make sure all the family make a comment and why not ask friends and family too – even if they don't live in the village.

Visit Lewes District Council's Planning Portal at

<https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/article/1797/Search-and-view-planning-applications>

And join our mailing list so that we can keep you abreast of when plans are open to comment: notowivelstown@gmail.com
Just let us know you want to be added to the list.

Join the campaign...

If you've got either a specialist interest in any of the following and a little time to give then let us know we desperately need people like you:

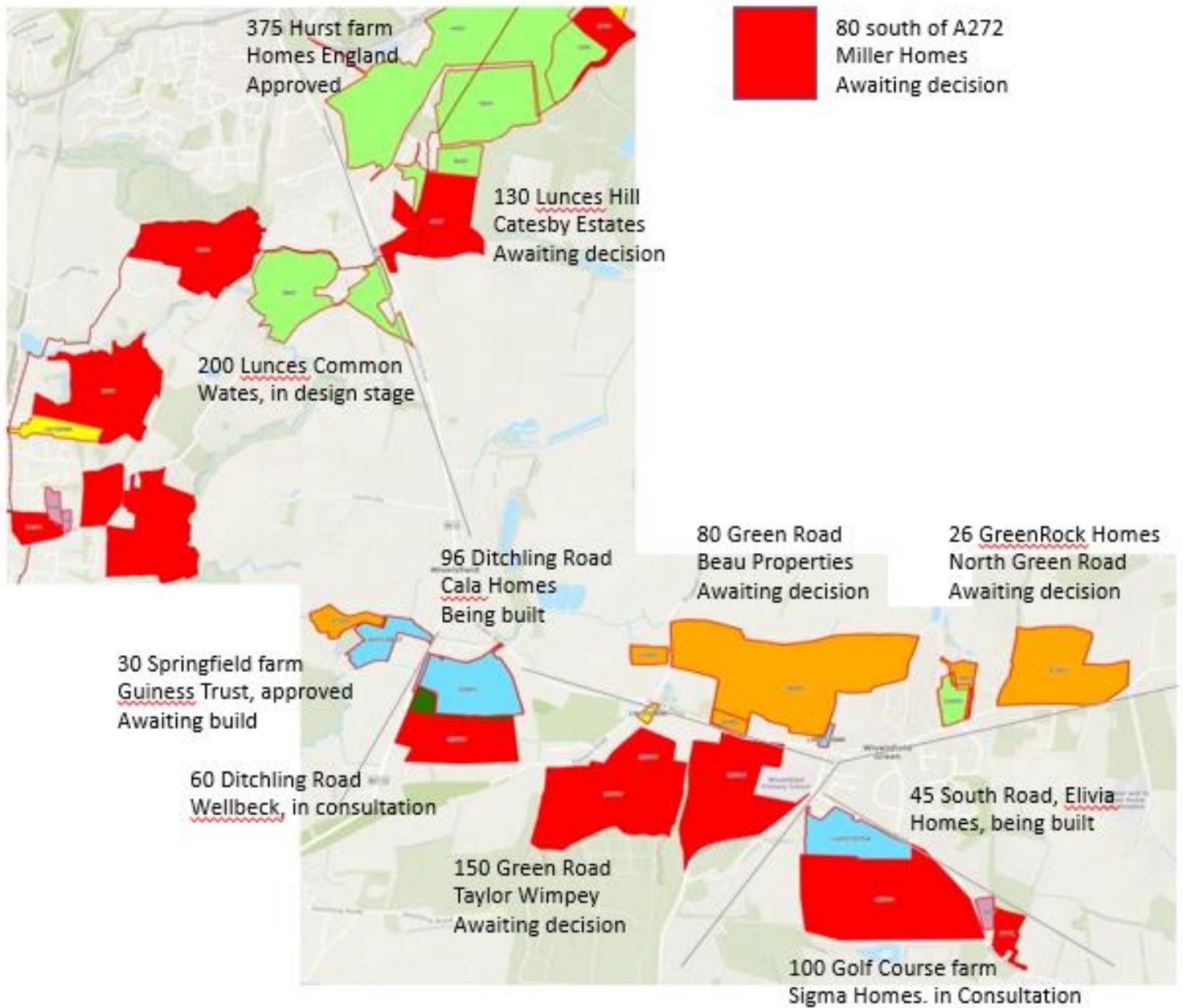
- Media relations
- Environment
- Lobbying

You may not have these specialisms but you may have time and will and we'd love to hear from you too.

You can also just let us know about service issues you've encountered here in the village or read through planning submissions and let us know if you spot a fault with the applications.

Email us at: notowivelstown@gmail.com

We are stronger together.



Current Map of Developments surrounding Wivelsfield

As of September 2025

