

Wiltshire Council

Council

22 February 2011

Public Participation – Item No. 9

**Question from Godshill Parish Council
To Council**

As a Parish Council which has taken a full part in the extended consultation on the South Wilts Core Strategy Examination in Public, it is disappointing to find that there has been no communication with us concerning the revised housing figures for the area (Agenda Item 9 for the Full Council Meeting on 22nd February). We have had virtually no time, since discovering the figures informally, to research the methodology used.

Godshill Parish Council therefore wishes to place the following statement before the Council:

Our main concern is to protect the New Forest National Park from light, traffic and other pollution emanating from large new developments close to its border. We had been given to understand that the new housing allocation for Downton was to be 190, and felt this was high, given the sensitivity of the National Park and the probability that most workers from the new development would travel across the Forest to Southampton to work. So when we learned that the overall figures were to be revised downwards as a result of re-evaluation after the abolition of Regional government, we looked forward to a reduction of the figure of 190.

We therefore must strongly protest that an increase of over 50% to 300 is completely unreasonable and unacceptable. If, as appears possible, this figure has been arrived at by a miscalculation, we have received no information concerning the final, corrected figure nor how it has been calculated. This should be lower than 190, to conform to the general overall reduction across the region.

Godshill Parish Council therefore asks Council to consider these figures extremely carefully, compared to the value to the nation of the integrity of the National Park'.