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SCORES RALLY OVER HOMES PLANS

HUNDREDS of residents have signed a petition to show their feelings over controversial plans to build

more than 1,000 homes across Lancing and Sompting.

The petition was presented to Adur District Council on

the final day of the public consultation.

■ Turn to page 4 for the full story.



Some of the campaigners who are fighting the plan more than 1,000 homes across Lancing and Sompti

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Your views on the
news and what's
going on near you

■ Letters: from page 34



Find out
what's on
the mind of
columnist
Lauren
Bravo
this week

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pages of news from
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Join Richard
Williamson
on a stroll
around
the area's
countryside

■ Nature: see
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Residents rally against plan for 1,000-home development

HUNDREDS of residents rallied against controversial plans to build more than 1,000 homes across Lancing and Sompting by backing a petition which was handed to the council on Thursday.

The 378-signature document was presented to Adur District Council by a group of Liberal Democrat Party members on the final day of the public consultation. Jemima Bland, parliamentary Liberal Democrat candidate for East Worthing and Shoreham, said: "One of the extraordinary things about this petition has been the number of people who have wanted to add detailed comments as well as their signature."

"There is deeply felt opposition to these ill-conceived developments."

Lancing parish councillor Doris Martin said: "I've spent hours on doorsteps in the Mash Barn area of Lancing collecting signatures and I've never known such universal opposition to a plan."

The draft Adur Local Plan has been produced by the council under Government pressure to provide land for housing.

BY JOE RIDDLE
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It has been met with fierce opposition from many local residents and groups.

Chairman of Cokeham Liberal Democrats Kay Vincent said: "Our local roads are already overloaded, so building 480 houses in west Sompting will make existing traffic even worse."

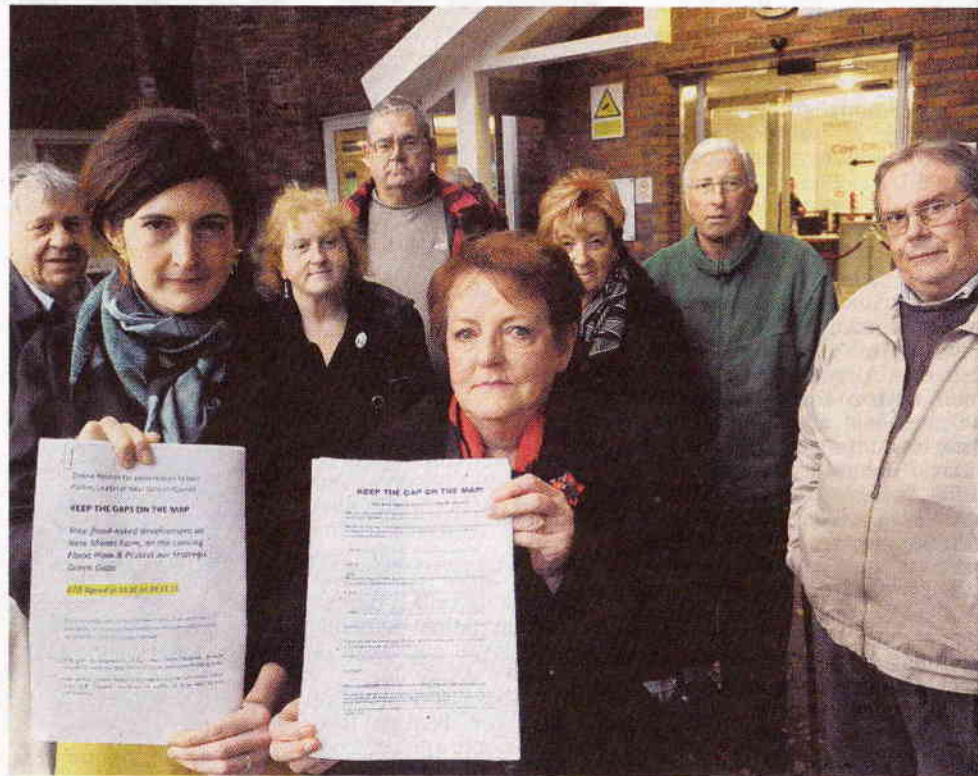
"To me it is also just common sense that building houses on flood plains is a mad idea."

"I really do hope the council alter their plans."

Secretary of Lancing Manor South East Residents' Association Bill Freeman thanked Jemima Bland and the Liberal Democrats for their support.

He said: "The 378 signatures in themselves should create enough concern to show the crassness of the flood plain developments and the A27 roundabout proposals to persuade Adur to go back to the drawing board and work harder to find other ways to achieve the housing targets."

"Our district authority, its elected members and officers, must listen to its ratepayers



The petition being delivered at Portland House, Worthing

and make the right decision to safeguard the wellbeing of the whole community from the increased risk of flooding and serious decline of road

infrastructure because of elements in the current plan, amongst the many other concerns."

More information on the

details of the Revised Draft Adur Local Plan can be found online at www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/adur-local-plan-consultation

Countryside group slams housing plan

A RURAL pressure group has called for Adur District Council to rethink plans to allow housing on what it calls 'sensitive sites' in the area.

The Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) Sussex, says the council's revised Local Plan will damage precious countryside and increase pressure on areas prone to flooding.

CPRE Sussex wants the council to look again at plans for development at New Monks Farm, West Sompting and Shoreham Airport, which it says would destroy the character of the greenfield areas, and spoil historic countryside views.

David Johnson, chairman of CPRE Sussex, said "The Adur Local Plan needs a significant rethink and we hope that the district council will dig deep to find brownfield land and unlock sites held onto by developers to demonstrate that building on greenfield land in this way is inappropriate and unnecessary."

The group believes the developments will have a big impact on the quality of life of those living nearby, and wants the council to work harder to resist Government pressure to build on greenfield sites.

A council spokesman said planners had looked at brownfield sites but too few were available to meet Adur's needs.

The spokesman said work was needed on mitigating flooding and transport problems before the next version of the plan could be published, and added that development on the edge of the gaps would open up recreational opportunities for residents.

Airport worker d after fall from lor

By JOE RIDDLE
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A POPULAR airport worker died when he fell from the back of a lorry at Gatwick, an inquest heard last Wednesday.

Michael Miles, of Chester Avenue, Lancing, fell backwards from a height of just 4ft, hitting the side of his head on the concrete floor.

The 62-year-old was airlifted to King's College Hospital in London and operated on, but, sadly, died on May 20, six days after the accident.

Mr Miles' widow, Rosemary, described him as easy-going, patient, tolerant, fiercely loyal and with a great sense of humour.

Mr Miles worked as a driver-loader, loading food and drink onto aircraft from a lorry with a specially-designed platform at the back.

The inquest heard from Roland Etherington, Mr Miles' work partner of five years.

He said: "It was a totally normal day. The next thing I saw, his feet came down to the step below and he was propelled backwards. His head went down and hit the concrete. It was almost like he was catapulted back. I have the impression of him looking at me as he fell



Mr Miles on the job at Gatwick airport

backwards with fear on his face.

"He didn't say anything. I went down to him and cradled his head. I seriously thought it would be a minor accident at the time, that he would be off work for a few days and that would be it."

The jury heard from the Health and Safety Executive's Rebecca Dunn that Mr Miles' employer, catering firm Gate Gourmet, had followed all legal safety requirements, and there

was nothing more that could or should have been done.

Gate Gourmet's general manager Hans-Peter Ross said the company had reviewed its operations since the accident, but no changes had been made.

He described Mr Miles as an 'extremely competent, professional, diligent and thorough man'.

The jury heard that Mr Miles was diabetic and had suffered a series of workplace accidents and

Care home stalwart retires after 30 years in job

A SOMPTING care-home stalwart retired last week after putting in almost 30 years of loyal service.

Rose Wrighton was a registered nurse for 25 years before transferring to the reception desk at Rectory House in Sompting.

She is looking forward to spending more time with her husband John and their family in her retirement.

Rectory House

