


COMMENT 

Campaigners ask for more

THERE'S nothing like a good old-fashioned planning story to stir up some local controversy.

Disputes about one-storey garage extensions can sometimes get just as ugly as full-blown town-changing proposals - in terms of the complaints, that is.

Across the *News & Mail* patch, and probably the entire country, when there's a planning application and somebody isn't a fan, boy do we know about it.

Which is why it is refreshing to see people in Hart putting their heads together and coming up with a response to the Hartland Village scheme, formerly known as Pyestock, that requests more housing (see page six).

Yes, you read that correctly, **MORE** housing. Addressing the dire need for affordable and up-to-date accommodation in Hart and Rushmoor, We Heart Hart is suggesting the developers increase the density of properties in Hartland Village.

And when you've got two councils with combined housing waiting lists longer than a trip to Timbuktu, that makes perfect sense.

Bearing in mind the site effectively straddles the two boroughs, you would think there would be the usual complainants taking the 'not in my back yard' approach to a 'mini-village' sprouting up.

Instead, the campaign group's comments so far seem well-structured and considered, even taking into account the question of what 'affordable homes' will actually mean for Hartland Village, and if local people will be able to stump up enough cash for it.


Now all we need is for someone to mention the state of the roads and the need for another school and we've got ourselves a packed planning story bingo card. Oh wait, they've thought of that too...

“Addressing the dire need for affordable accommodation in Hart and Rushmoor, We Heart Hart is suggesting the developers increase the density of properties in Hartland Village.”

WEB WISDOM

The pick of this week's comments from our online community

After Hampshire Police launched a campaign targeting motorists using mobile phones while driving: "I really hope they do as I can't believe how many drivers I see every day on their phones and my drive to and from work is only 10 minutes each way!!"

 Elaine Grieson

In response to a blockbuster movie being filmed in Aldershot: "Oh no, another zombie end-of-the-world film! Guess they are after a town that looks run down