

## **Chair's Statement to BEPC 23-01-24**

### **Thoughts on BEW**

We are angry and many parishioners have told me to be angry.

The issues in our villages are being driven by government and the commercial interests of developers and their consultants. Any semblance of democracy and localism has disappeared simply because the evidence facing our government bodies is being ignored because it is inconvenient and not politically expedient. Any concept of duty of care and serving the community is gone. Many of the behaviours I'm seeing match what we are seeing at the Post Office Inquiry. The truth and evidence is inconvenient and will therefore be ignored.

I'm a believer in common sense based on knowledge and data. The evidence we have seen over the last month confirms what we've been saying for over a decade:

1. The design of the A27 Arundel bypass must avoid creating rat runs on the lanes between our villages. Surely this is common sense, but this is what the design does.
2. Creating a giant cul-de-sac by building the BEW Strategic development north of the railway without connecting the new A29 to North Bognor is going to create traffic hell on the B2233 and A29. Surely this is common sense. If the Traffic Consultants and WSCC think we are wrong then they must prove it but they won't disclose the modeling.
3. The current A29 design ends at Lindsey. This road is regularly closed due to flooding. Where is the common sense.
4. Our village sewers are at capacity. No more building until it's fixed.
5. And then we move onto schools, community infrastructure... our 2019 report is still as valid today as it was then. The evidence we produced is ignored because it is inconvenient.
6. Is it common sense that an unelected planning inspector gave planning permission on Tars Farm where houses have flooded in Marshal Close.

Who is to blame? The buck has to stop with the leadership in ADC, WSCC and central government. District and County authorities are not prepared to challenge the top down targets of central government. Officers defend the un-defendable.

I am proud to be independent politically and at this year's election I will be looking to support those that will get back to basics and common sense. It is, I believe, our duty to hold power to account and protect our current and future community. We must measure our political leaders not by what they promise but what they deliver.

I don't know how we fight back but the corruption exposed by the post office enquiry gives me hope that the professional and evidence-based approach we have adopted since 2011 will ultimately win through and that the culpable officers and politicians will be held accountable.

C J Allington  
Chair, Barnham and Eastergate Parish Council  
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