

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****16 November 2009****Hands off our green spaces - Tear up the Masterplan now**

The latest Eco-town masterplan, unveiled last week is unsustainable and should be torn up, says BAAG. If approved it will blight the town for decades to come, because the over scaled, underfunded, ecologically and environmentally damaging proposals are not backed by factual evidence or the local community. The plan has changed little from last April and the Council have no more to offer. This time though, the consultants are displaying more pretty but misleading diagrams, with mass broadsheet distribution, and a £500 prize draw, all at taxpayers' expense, in an effort to manufacture more support.

Total responses from the Council's last consultation, released to BAAG a few days before the new plan, amounted to just 150. Even with the loaded questions that people were asked to support, all has not gone according to plan. Despite the Council's suppression of any discussion of housing numbers, the most frequently expressed concern was about the plan's 5,500 target figure. Consequently it was left to BAAG to ask local people "Do you agree with the plan to double the size of Bordon...?" to which replies, more than three times the Council's number were a resounding 90% NO. In addition, Bordon overwhelmingly wants jobs before houses, no building on greenfield sites and rejects massive traffic increases, the BAAG survey revealed.

BAAG Chairman Steve Parsons comments:

"Our argument is not with the consultants, with whom we had a constructive meeting, but with the Council that calls the tune. We have been forced to issue our own leaflet as a counter measure to their propaganda. We handed some to people attending the Council's exhibitions. Our exit polls already suggest huge disgust with the plan."

"Once again," said Parsons, "the threat to the town is so great that BAAG has called another public meeting at 7.30 on Friday 27 November at the Forest Community Centre. This will be a different affair to the Council's stage managed meetings in which people are only allowed to discuss details like where the new school should go, rather than fundamental questions like excessive building, traffic, tree felling, erosion of Hogmoor Inclosure, loss of greenfield land and biodiversity which this plan involves."

BAAG convenor Jack Warshaw emphasised the importance of jobs, infrastructure and the economy before housing in his comments on last Friday's BBC South Today and called for the plan to be torn up. In an interview with Delta Radio, he said: "The resignations of Leader Ferris Cowper and portfolio holder Ian Dowdle should have been seen as an opportunity to take Bordon's future out of narrow party politics; instead, their Tory replacements have no connection with Bordon at all." Mr Andrew Joy it seems has already exposed his party and the Council to embarrassment by declaring, with no evidence whatsoever, that he is "quite certain" Bordon will soon get a rail station.

ENDS

Contact: Steve Parsons 07974347487

Jack Warshaw 07977504567