

Is Heathlands a 'done deal'?

It's probably the most frequently asked question of us and the simple answer is ***ABSOLUTELY NOT!***

The clever marketing and PR that is going on - at taxpayers' expense - is to create a perception to local people that this massive development is going ahead whether we like it or not.

Do not fall into the trap of Maidstone Borough Council.

The amount of flaws in the project mean it will be very hard, if at all, to actually deliver it. Here's 7 (of many) reasons why Heathlands is not a done deal:

(1) Major landowners are still not signed up after over 6 years of trying. We know from one of the largest that they are simply not interested in signing up. Without land there is no 'new town'. Simple as that.

(2) MBC and Homes England won't admit it to you but we have heard it on good authority from a source at Network Rail that they will not entertain a new rail station in the development for all the reasons SOHL have pointed out to MBC over the last few years.

(3) Major objectors include the likes of Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE). Do not underestimate the influence these types of organisations have, despite what MBC may claim.

(4) Lenham falls within the Stodmarsh catchment area where a moratorium is currently in place restricting all new development without sufficient nutrient neutrality mitigation. Heathlands still can not demonstrate acceptable mitigation for protecting watercourses from pollution.

(5) There will be no motorway junction. Without a new junction the A20 simply can not cope with the additional volumes. It's simple maths. We've seen what happens with increased flows every time the M20 closes. No upgrade of the A20 can cope with such huge volumes. No proper highway modelling has been undertaken to date to truly understand the impact act of Hethlands.

(6) The financial viability of the Heathlands proposal is questionable and has major omissions which would quickly render the project unviable. MBC and Homes England are intentionally manipulating the figures to make it look more viable than it is.

(7) Finally, PEOPLE POWER does work, believe it or not. We've got to remain resolute in our opposition to this proposal. MBC will be wanting there to be splits in our community. Don't let them divide us!

Next time someone says to you it's a done deal, remind them of these points!

Sign the petition and get more information by clicking on the link below

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