

# Save Titnore Woods!

**Q: When is a wood not a wood?**

**A: When it has a road running right through it!**

The 'new' planning application for the West Durrington development is being sold to the Worthing public as a 'response to public opinion' that will spare many of the Titnore trees.

But, like the original plans, it includes access roads that will cut right through the beautiful ancient woodland currently occupied by the protest camp. A wood is no longer a viable bio-system with a road cutting it in half. Wildlife like dormice and crested newts will not survive in what will be no more than roadside clumps of trees surrounded by tarmac and executive homes.

The developers do not mention that the lack of road widening was forced on them through legal pressure, rather than dreamt up out of the goodness of their hearts. And they do not mention what would be likely to happen in a few years' time, when the massive increase in traffic to the new estate of at least 875 homes and the mega-Tesco would no doubt be expected to force a re-think on Titnore Lane for the usual "safety" reasons.

Needless to say, the battle against the destruction of our countryside in West Durrington goes on! We cannot afford to lose this last precious green lung in our borough, which is already choking on housing estates, roads and shops that we don't really need.

The council's own figures show there are 1,000 empty properties in the borough - these should be converted into cheap housing for local people, rather than destroying our countryside for over-priced homes for yuppies commuting up and down to Gatwick or London on our already jammed up roads. The developers - Taylor Wimpey, Persimmon and Heron - are making a great deal out of 30% of the homes being 'affordable' - but this actually means that a massive 70% will be unaffordable!

We must voice our opposition to this loud and clear - maybe at last our spineless "representatives" on the council will actually throw out this disastrous plan - or at least insist on a public enquiry so its impact can be looked into properly.

We are urging everyone to send in their letters of objection to planning application WB/04/00040/OUT as soon as possible - October 9 is the very latest deadline.

These should be addressed to: Executive Head of Planning, Regeneration and Wellbeing, Worthing Borough Council, Portland House, Richmond Road, Worthing, West Sussex Worthing BN11 1LF or e-mail: [planning@worthing.gov.uk](mailto:planning@worthing.gov.uk). A letter in your own words will carry more weight than a standard one.

Meanwhile, the protest camp set up May 2006 is still going strong. There is, however, an urgent need for repairs to the infrastructure and defences, which have degraded over the last couple of years. Polyprop rope is badly wanted - as well as financial contributions. If you can spare an hour or two to help at the camp, a tidy up day is being held on **Sunday September 21**, from 10am.

And then on **Sunday September 28** there will be an Open Day, from 2pm. This will include guided tours, showing where the roads and housing are planned to destroy the area. Bring food to share.

● More info: [www.eco-action.org/porkbolter](http://www.eco-action.org/porkbolter) and [www.protectourwoodland.co.uk](http://www.protectourwoodland.co.uk)

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