

The PC chairman, who has attended the appeal hearing at WODC, has written the following report after the closure of the inquiry.

We had the final day of the Spitfire Homes appeal today. The Inspector heard some 5 days of evidence from the three parties involved, i.e. Spitfire Homes, WODC and the Rule 6 party representing SOS and the Parish Council, and undertook a 3 hour site visit yesterday. The SOS committee have put in a tremendous amount of work and effort, and the case presented on our behalf was at least the equal of, and in my opinion significantly better than, the case presented by the appellants. In fact, in closing, the Inspector made particular comment commending the professionalism of the Rule 6 party. We were also thanked by WODC who were grateful for our support.

As to the outcome? No idea, but I certainly haven't come away with a feeling of defeat. Our case is very strong and was put across by Andy Bateson and our witnesses from the SOS committee in a most professional manner that was a match for the Spitfire QC and the entourage of experts who accompanied him. We'll find out sometime in the next 4 - 6 weeks once the inspector has had time to go through all the evidence and come to her conclusion, and, as to be expected, the Inspector gave no indication of her thinking at this stage.

In the meantime, whatever the outcome, I believe we owe the SOS committee a huge debt of gratitude for the sterling work they have done on behalf of the village.

Chris Naylor