

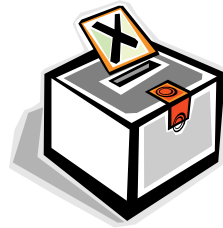
government refuses to fund them. If the SE Plan proposals become a reality this will make for more congestion, fewer hospital beds and schools unable to cope with increased pupil numbers. It's no wonder the Conservative party is pledging to abolish the unelected regions to which Tony's cronies have devolved power and to spend the billions of our taxes in other ways to improve all of our lives. The North East has already voted unelected regional assemblies down.

Elections:

I hope you'll support us in our fight in the County elections on May 5th – unless Mr Blair moves it to June as he did last year! No sign of that just yet.

Enjoy the Spring!

Eunice Byrom



Community Governor

Have you got some time to spare?

Would you like to support local education?
Can you bring knowledge and skill to the village school?

If so Rowlands Castle St John's Primary School have a vacancy for a community governor. The commitment is to around six full governing body meetings each year and membership of a committee who meet three times a year.

If you are interested and would like to be considered, please write, giving details of your interest and what you can offer, to:

Chairman of Governors
Susan De Guisa
Rowlands Castle St John's Primary School



A HOUSE IS NOT A HOME?

RCA Chairman Steve Green reports on the recent meeting regarding the South East Plan.

Most residents will have had a leaflet through their door on or before the weekend of 19th March concerning the meeting on the 21st March held at the Parish hall, Links Lane. The meeting was arranged by Marge Harvey to give the residents of the village a chance to hear about the 'South East plan' for development over the next 20 years. Eunice Byron also arranged for 'southeast plan' magazines from East Hants to be delivered to the local area.

The meeting was well attended by approximately 150 residents, but a comment was made that as the plan is dealing with the village over the next 20 years, it was a shame that there were not many of the 'younger' residents in attendance.

So what is it all about? The presentation given outlined the housing, environment, economy and transport issues which the 'South East England Regional Assembly' will oversee during the next 20 years. "SEERA was established in January 1999 by the government which took direct responsibility away from the county and unitary authorities. In 2004 the Government abolishes strategic plans and gave it new and gave it new powers to carry out strategic planning." (Holding out for Hampshire magazine). I understand that each every household should have received information about this but it appears that noone in the village had had the information made available to them. Hence the meeting was arranged.

During the meeting a large amount of statistics together with the timetable of consultation and some surprising information were presented (The South East is stated to be 31st in the worlds top economic global regions and its aim is to be in the top 15 (California is currently 15th).

The top issues were the amount of housing development and 'sustainability' of the infrastructure and environmental issues at what impact that this will have on the village. There are three options being considered regarding housing across the region - 25,500 - 28,000 or 32,000 additional homes per annum across the region. The figure put forward on how this would affect us locally was 0.4% growth. The Parish has approximately 1200 houses now so this would mean an additional 48 houses in the village (BUT NOT including infilling and ad hoc developments around the village. The two current sites under review are Dearleap and Oaklands. This figure would not include the small developments underway or propped in Durrants Road, Wellsworth Lane, Bowes Hill (both the flats and a new issue which is being proposed between Bowes Hill, Links Lane and Holt Gardens)