

Council meeting at 7pm on **Monday** March 22 to vote on HIF grant

Good afternoon Supporters of F4R

This is an important moment in the saga of St. George's Barracks re-development

On March 22, Rutland County Council (all 27 Councillors) are meeting to accept, or reject, the Terms for the HIF grant of £29.4m awarded to help fund infrastructure at St George's Barracks. Without this grant the site is not viable and the Local Plan will have to be reconsidered.

We are hoping to encourage our supporters to lobby their ward Councillors to vote against the HIF grant because the risks to Rutland of this development are too great.

The financial risk is significant

- RCC's finances are already parlous - the 2021/22 budget has a £2m+ loss and the Council is using reserves to maintain services.
- Any additional losses as a result of difficulties with developing SGB would exacerbate the financial difficulties, which will directly impact on Rutlanders' Council Tax and services.

RCC is not capable of managing a project of this size

- The HIF Agreements make RCC the 'Accountable Body' responsible for the administration of this large and complex project.
- RCC's track record is poor, even with smaller projects. As you may have read in the Rutland Times, the development of 850 houses at Oakham Heights has led to serious difficulties which have still not been resolved 10 years after the development began.
- £1.9m due from developers, as a contribution to infrastructure, was lost following contract drafting errors by RCC.
- RCC simply do not have the skills and experience to manage SGB - a site more than twice as large as Oakham Heights. **The Council will lose control of the development.**

The timescales are very tight and add to the risk

- The MOD were due to leave in 2021. No firm date has been given but it is likely to be well into 2022.
- The £100m of infrastructure, being partly funded by the HIF grant, must all be completed by March 2024. This leaves a very short time to complete the works and thus receive the moneys.

PLEASE **WOULD YOU BE PREPARED TO LOBBY YOUR WARD COUNCILLOR TO VOTE AGAINST THE HIF GRANT ON MARCH 22. Could you try to make contact with your Councillor on Friday, over the weekend or on Monday before the evening meeting?**

THIS IS **THE BEST HOPE WE HAVE NOW TO TAKE BACK CONTROL FROM THE MOD AND PREVENT THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW TOWN AT SGB.**

Please watch the Council meeting by zoom on March 22. Having a large virtual audience may cause Councillors to think more carefully before casting their vote. The link to the meeting is below: The start time for the meeting is 7 pm.

<https://zoom.us/j/93063688674>

How to find your Ward Councillor

<https://rutlandcounty.moderngov.co.uk/mgMemberIndex.aspx?bcr=1>