



25th February 2013

## Minister for Communities and Local Government visits Woodford

Members of Woodford United, the determined Action Group opposing the 800-unit housing estate on the Woodford BAe site, were very pleased to have the opportunity to put their case directly to the Rt Hon Don Foster MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, when he recently visited Woodford village accompanied by local MP Mark Hunter.



The Minister spoke at length with members of the Woodford United committee, who represented the views of the community council and residents. He was shown various information boards from earlier exhibitions by Woodford United and toured the area to see for himself the rural character of the locality and the impact such a large development would have on the village and, as importantly, on the surrounding areas.



Paul Rodman, Chairman of Woodford Community Council and Woodford United, said how encouraged he was that such a senior Minister was able to visit the area and see for himself the potentially disastrous impact such a development would have.

“The Minister, I am sure, appreciated the serious impact of quadrupling the population of the village. He was made aware of our serious concerns with regard to major infrastructure issues, such as hugely increased traffic volumes over a large area, schooling and the lack of employment opportunities and, in addition, the severe damage to the Green Belt and the rural character of the area.

Other proposed developments on the borders of

**Above:** The Minister (right) explaining principles of Neighbourhood Forums to WU members and Mark Hunter, local MP (second from left).

Woodford, such as the Handforth plans for 2,300 homes around Total Fitness, make it even more imperative that any Woodford development is of a reasonable and sustainable size.”

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