

## *EASTFIELD LANE PLANNING APPLICATION REJECTED*

On 25th May the application to build 109 houses on land to the north of Eastfield Lane (application number 144526) was rejected unanimously by West Lindsey District Council's planning committee.

A number of Welton residents attended in person and others followed proceedings online. They heard the agent for the developer attempt to persuade the committee to go against their planning officer's recommendation to reject the application. He suggested that the site may not be included in the current Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (CLLP) but would be included in the one to be agreed later this year. He also suggested that allowing this application now would relieve construction traffic on the neighbouring Hawks Road site. This seemed to beg the question why that application had been granted if that was such a problem and also confirmed objectors' fears that granting this application would create a permanent rat-run through the two estates.

Chris Thomas of the Ryland Residents Group spoke impressively to outline the wide range and number of objections (see Welton NEWS for more details) and was followed by district councillors Di Rodgers and Steve England who registered their opposition to the application. They emphasised the problems that would be caused if the council pre-empted the outcome of the CLLP discussions and granted permission now to a site that may not end up in the final version of the new plan. Cllr Caralyne Grimble attended the meeting and also opposed. Another councillor spoke about the negative impact of large developments in Welton and Dunholme on the availability of services in neighbouring villages, particularly health and education. No councillors spoke in favour of the application and it was rejected unanimously.

Although this decision was significant, the Eastfield Lane site remains in the new, draft CLLP. Unless it is removed, it is possible that a future application could be successful. The efforts of the Ryland Residents Group and its supporters will now focus on the CLLP as it is examined by a planning inspector. It is hoped that the group will be called to present its case to a hearing later in the summer.