

Cary waste plan derided

New Hill residents hope to stop plant

By **TOBY COLEMAN**, Staff Writer

CARY -- Money Magazine calls this town one of America's best. To Larry Ballas of Chatham County, however, Cary is a lousy neighbor.

"It's nice when Money Magazine gives you a good write-up that puts you in a high position," he told the Cary Town Council Thursday. "But it's not so nice when your neighbors don't think so highly of you."

Those unhappy neighbors confronted the council Thursday inside and outside of Town Hall. A group of about 20 New Hill residents outside waved signs and chanted slogans denouncing the council's June decision to condemn land for a sewage treatment plant in the heart of their unincorporated Wake County community. During the meeting, Ballas and other Chatham County residents asserted that the town was considering annexing more land in their county without consulting them.

Cary Town Council members said they were concerned about the complaints but did not offer a whole lot of answers. They told Chatham County residents they would try to work more closely with their elected representatives.

New Hill residents vowed Thursday to keep pressuring the Cary Town Council.

"We are going to fight this in every venue we can, though the media, through the courts," said Tonya Forbes as she picketed outside Town Hall. "This is wrong."

In June, a divided Cary Town Council voted to condemn more than 200 acres for a sewage treatment plant for their town, Apex, Holly Springs and Morrisville. A council majority said the board needed to move then to ensure that the sewage plant would open by 2011, the state-imposed deadline for the towns to begin sending treated water from their sewage back into the Cape Fear basin.

New Hill residents say Cary and its partners should reconsider their plans to put the treatment plant near the junction of Old U.S. 1 and New Hill-Olive Chapel Road, which marks the center of their community in southwestern Wake County. They want Cary to reconsider some land closer to Progress Energy's Shearon Harris nuclear plant.

Their effort continued Thursday with chants such as, "We don't want your waste, take it to another place." There were homemade signs including one picturing Cary Mayor Ernie McAlister with red horns.

Staff writer Toby Coleman can be reached at 829-8937 or tcoleman@newsobserver.com.

© Copyright 2005, The News & Observer Publishing Company,
a subsidiary of [The McClatchy Company](#) 