

# Holly Springs shows signs of hypocrisy

Mayor Sears and Holly Springs Town Council:

This morning, August 9, 2005, I sat down at the breakfast table to read the *News and Observer*. After reading the Triangle section, I suddenly received a queer sensation deep in the pit of my stomach.

Why you ask? Because I observed another article dedicated to your attempt at stopping the Wake County landfill currently scheduled to be built in Holly Springs during 2007. This queer, or uneasy feeling, didn't come solely from the fact that Holly Springs is fighting placement of the landfill, but rather from a combination of things.

How can the town of Holly Springs argue against the landfill, while at the same time supporting the Western Wake Partner's (Apex, Cary, Holly Springs, Morrisville) endeavor to build a waste treatment facility adjacent to New Hill's Historical District?

Yes, I understand part of your argument against the landfill is based on lost tax revenue. Also, I realize there is an immense profit margin difference in the \$17 million commercial value estimate the county planners' placed on the property and the \$47 million commercial value you assume the property to be worth.

Correct me if I'm wrong, but isn't part of your argument also based on the town of Holly Springs' right to choose where, when, and what is built in the town's ETJ and the depreciation of land values in the area surrounding the landfill? I know your current administration didn't commit to accepting the landfill, so you probably feel no obligation to accept it, which is understandable. I fully support you and the town of Holly Springs on this issue and hope you're successful in getting Wake County to reconsider the landfill site location.

Now, do you honestly feel it's ethical and just for the WWP's lead agency, Cary, to single out New Hill for placement of a regional waste treatment facility? Remember, New Hill had no say in the process and weren't informed they were being considered to host the sewage plant until the location choice had been made.

Do you believe it's right for the WWP's to condemn land that has been in one family's possession for several generations? It has been well established the family has no desire to sell their property. It is my understanding the lawyers for the two parties involved, New Hill and the property owners, are collaborating in their efforts

to stop the WWP's.

Let's discuss the \$27 million more the lead agency has said it will cost to build the waste treatment plant on Progress Energy land. To my knowledge New Hill has yet to receive a detailed and comprehensive cost analysis to justify that claim. I'm not disputing the fact that there may be an actual cost difference from building on Progress Energy land vice adjacent to New Hill Historical District, but the \$27 million quote given by the lead agency remains suspect until evidence is provided to substantiate their claim.

Another concern I have is Cary's show of arrogance in dismissing many of the "tough" questions posed to them by the New Hill residents.

Here's why I get a queer feeling in the pit of my stomach when reading a newspaper article regarding your fight against the county's future landfill. I see several similarities in the New Hill and Holly Springs fight, yet your position on these two separate issues appear to be quiet different.

1. You're against having the landfill built in your community, but favor a waste treatment plant being built in the New Hill community.

2. You want the Wake County Commissioners to listen to your concerns regarding landfill placement, yet you won't encourage the WWP's lead agency to act on New Hill's request for talks with Progress Energy.

3. You're concerned about land value depreciation in the areas surrounding the landfill, yet have shown no concern for the land depreciation of the property surrounding the waste water treatment facility planned for New Hill.

I have to admit, Mayor Sears, you have been consistent concerning your feelings of money, but I would suggest that financial considerations shouldn't be the deciding factor on whether the WWP's waste treatment facility is built in New Hill. Please, reconsider your position and encourage Cary to open meaningful dialogue with Progress Energy for the consideration of accepting the sewage treatment plant on their property.

I understand withdrawing from the Western Wake Partner's would place you in breach of the Interlocal Agreement, but encouraging Cary to reconsider building adjacent to New Hill's Historical District and suggesting Progress Energy land as a viable option would not. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

**Mitch Welch**  
New Hill