

Why wasn't New Hill site discussed in public forum?

According to a recent article in the *News and Observer*, Apex Mayor Weatherly acknowledges that he sent a letter of consent to the site selection for the sewage plant planned for New Hill, then discussed it with Apex commissioners several days later in a closed session.

Mayors of Holly Springs and Morrisville "cannot remember" if they talked about it with their respective councils prior to sending their towns' letters of consent.

Assuming one can get past the disbelief that mayors of two of our fastest-growing towns have such poor memories, all three

situations beg the question: Why were these conversations conducted privately and without public input?

Officials at DENR (the regulating and licensing agency for such projects) advised early in the process that this project was a "big deal," and implored the Western Wake Partners (WWP) to seek public input often.

Perhaps if they had done so, Mayor Weatherly would not have "interpreted approval" on the part of the Apex board; he and the commissioners would have known beforehand how the residents of New Hill, and many in Apex, feel about the site

selection.

Cary, as the lead agency for the WWP, should have made sure that the other three towns sought public input and followed correct procedure in the site selection process.

Instead, Cary leaders also chose to keep this project quiet for as long as possible—to the extent that they planned to inform the public after the property for the site had been condemned.

The more we learn about this project, the worse it gets.

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