

Neighbourhood Plan Update - 17/07/2023

- The BCP draft Local Plan is due for further public consultation in the Autumn 2023. Not sure exactly when, but due in the Autumn.
- The results of the BCP Public consultation have been published and show that the majority of respondents want the Green Belt to remain fully protected with no further development on Green Belt, and to focus on the regeneration of brownfield and inner town centre sites instead of building on Green Belt land.
- It went onto say that emphasis should be to prioritise development of brownfield sites close to major travel hubs and places of employment. There were concerns that removing green spaces, including Green Belt land, goes against the council's climate emergency objectives. There were further concerns that any development on the edges of BCP would only make travel problems worse.
- Our planning consultant Jo Witherden has produced a "Housing Target Discussion Paper" which stipulates that Under Policy KS2 of the adopted Local Plan, Burton is identified as being a village, and Winkton would be classified as a hamlet. This means that:-

Burton Village is therefore defined as a settlement "where only very limited development will be allowed that supports the role of the settlement as a provider of services to its home community."

Winkton is defined as a settlement "where development would not be allowed unless it was functionally required to be in the rural area."

- It should be noted that in recent times Winkton has increased significantly in housing numbers, when the old Homefield School site was developed (previously 56 homes now 90).
- These houses were built with the condition that owners had to be over the age of 55, and in 2019 the head of planning ruled that Winkton was not suitable for any kind of further development. This has already been upheld a number of times on appeal.
- In relation to housing numbers we already have Green Belt land near or within the BCP area with planning permission already granted, and no plans for increased infrastructure. These include:-

875 at Roeshot Hill (BCP)

238 already being built at West Parley (BCP)

100 at Bransgore (NFDC)

400 at Ringwood (NFDC)

It also looks like the northern part of 07:18 (Farwells Farm) belonging to Meyrick has already been allocated for development?

On top of all this Rightmove shows well in excess of 7000 houses for sale across the BCP area.... You may ask yourself what housing shortage and why are we even thinking about releasing Green Belt ? If there is such a desperate need for houses why hasn't building commenced on the sites mentioned above?

If we are to build houses it should be on Brownfield. The infrastructure is in a poor state and needs attention prior to any further development. The roads are becoming more congested, emissions are already high and we need the Green Belt to soak up these emissions, increased driving to get to houses built on the Green Belt will only increase these emissions. Our residents have recently attended a Parish Council meeting complaining about levels of traffic and speed.

It is a serious concern if our sewage treatment works can actually handle any further development. It is well documented that sewage is currently going into our rivers and seas, and obviously this should not be allowed to happen and should be addressed prior to any further development being authorised.

- Whilst on this subject; in relation to the River Avon Phosphates statement from BCP, it would appear that Natural England have caused the problem with their stance, and unfortunately BCP have followed suit.
- Councillor Margaret Phipps has been appointed as the Cabinet Support Member in the new Administration and is responsible for delivering the new Local Plan. She informs me that she aims to protect the Green Belt, using local housing figures rather than outdated Government targets and preference will be given to building in urban areas. This follows on from the previous administration of Messrs Mellor and Broadhead, both making similar assurances of protecting the Green Belt.
- The Government is also currently saying that Councils should not have to use Green Belt, so BCP are taking this Plan forward with a lower housing figure and aiming to use brownfield sites first.
- Margaret and other Strategic officers will be engaging with all Councillors, as many are new and do not know where we are with the new Local Plan. Councillors have been split into West and East for 2 evenings of a Local Plan Overview Presentation with questions and then breakouts to individual Ward Tables. This will enable that each set of Councillors can talk to an officer about how they see their Ward contributing to the Plan. The team will hopefully be able to visit RA's and Groups to discuss with them. Understandable that the plan is a huge piece of work and this is just the start before the new Plan comes forward into its draft form.
- Alinda, Maxine and I had a quick catch up last week and went through the list of sites assessed by AECOM. It was felt that if we had to provide sites within the Green Belt, then a decision would be made on the sites assessed as amber.

- As Chairman of the Neighbourhood Planning Group and as a Parish Council it is important that we uphold residents wishes, and that we take a firm stance on protecting the Green Belt. Especially as the Government is now saying that Councils should not have to use Green Belt for housing. Given the current climate emergency and agreements made at COP 26, it is my view that we take a firm stance and do everything to protect our Green Belt.
- Jo Witherden is currently away on holiday and we are aiming to have another meeting with her on possibly Thursday 10th August 2023 (to be confirmed).

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