

Fiona Ajram

From: Roger White [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 January 2018 17:17
To: PlanningPolicy NDDC
Subject: North Dorset Local Plan Review - Issues and Options

Sir,
I am responding to issues enumerated on page 6 of the latest Blackmore Vale Magazine (Jan 19), relating to the Local Plan review.

1 How much land should be allocated for residential development: You say that you are currently planning for 285 new homes per year but that 'evidence suggests that we should be planning for 366'. What evidence is this? The amount of new homes needed clearly varies greatly from one part of the country to another, and most of the so-called 'evidence' is little better than a guesstimate. Much of it is self-evidently needed in areas of high birth rate, which statistically is likely to be those with a large ethnic component (birth rates are, for instance, proven to be markedly higher in areas with a large Muslim population). That does not seem likely to be the case in North Dorset, and it therefore seems dubious that the large number you cite is justified in practice.

2 Where should new development be located: It may be that the towns you list can justify and absorb the main weight of development; but in practice the real need is for individual villages to add very modest numbers of new houses to cater for specifically local demand, especially for affordable housing for young people. The answer is not to dump large developments on the edge of towns, which are rarely designed with much care, though this is obviously what suits the big developers. This always places a significant additional burden on local services, particularly medical ones, with little effort to make sure that such services are expanded to cope. We need small, sympathetically designed infill, which has the additional advantage of being likely to be acceptable to local residents.

3 The A350 Corridor: This is already a heavily used cross-country trunk route and traffic will only increase. It is therefore blindingly obvious that land already earmarked for future bypasses must be safeguarded, even if the prospect of these being built is not short-term. To do otherwise would be grossly misguided and negligent. Moreover, the council should be pressing local MPs and the DoT to plan for a general upgrade of the route, especially the winding section between Shaftesbury and Blandford.

Yours faithfully,
Roger White

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