

**Full Council
17 October 2019**

Public Participation - Questions

1. Submitted by Dr Shillington

According to *Dorset Council News* (Summer 2019), the Council recognises that it needs to be more ambitious in following up its declaration of a climate emergency in the Dorset Council Area.

An emergency requires emergency action and Dorset Council must not be found wanting on this.

So, will Dorset Council follow the lead of Camden Council in London and make it a requirement for obtaining planning consent on all new structures that solar panels be installed on the roofs of all new domestic, industrial and commercial premises, *with immediate effect*, even if that entails going beyond national planning regulations and if necessary standing up to central government and developer company lobbyists?

Will you take up this challenge?

2. Submitted by Alistair Chisholm

“A recent independent report, commissioned by the Devon group of the CPRE, questioned the Government’s figures for the housing needs of the county. The Government figures in question were produced before three hugely significant reports; The State of Nature report by the UK National Biodiversity Network, the UN report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the UN report on Climate Change. The figures also pre-date this Council’s Declaration of a Climate Emergency made early in June this year. This independent Devon report concluded that the Government’s target numbers were hugely over-estimated. Most of the new homes were planned to be built on green field sites and, furthermore, two-thirds of Devon’s new housing will be bought by people moving into the county. Government targets did little to address the real housing needs of the county yet the Housing minister avoided answering questions on this matter when he spoke at a housing seminar in Exeter in March 2019 to launch the report. Indeed, it later transpired that he had not even read this professionally produced, independent report.

What plans, if any, does this council have to question the unrevised housing numbers for Dorset proposed in 2014 by central Government?

If, as seems increasingly likely, the numbers have not only been hugely over estimated but do little or nothing to address the real and urgent needs of our county for truly “affordable” homes (for rent, purchase or a mix of the two), why should the Council tax payers go along with/accept any Local Plan for Dorset which simply feeds the voracious appetite of developers and landowners and does little or nothing for either the county’s residents or its precious countryside?”