

Full Council
15 October 2020
Public Participation - Questions

Question 1

Submitted by: Geoffrey Chopping

The Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government produced a white paper entitled PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE in August 2020. The paper suggests some radical proposals to reform the planning process, in order to speed up the planning process, with land being classified as: Growth Areas; Renewal Areas; and Protected Areas.

Six paragraphs within the paper mention the Green Belt. It is clear, from those 6 paragraphs, that it is the intention of the Government that the Green Belt should be excluded from consideration as land for development.

The width of the green belt between Wimborne and Furzehill was approximately halved in 2014. The white paper proposes that the quantity and allocation of new housing, would be decided by an algorithm, (sometimes called the mutant planning algorithm) which proposes a large increase in development in the Dorset Council area. According to the current analysis by Lichfields, this is an increase of 41.7% on the current local plan annual requirement of 1464 rising to 2075 by the proposed new standard method.

Will Dorset Council accept the government proposal, that Green Belt Land should be protected from development, and consequently will Dorset Council confirm that current Green Belt areas, within Dorset and in particular around Wimborne and near Furzehill, will be classified as Protected Areas, where development is restricted, as stated on page 20 of the white paper?

Question 2

Submitted by: Cllr Alistair Chisholm, Independent Councillor Dorchester Town Council

In what way, precisely, will the building of 4000 houses immediately beyond the water meadows of the river Frome north of Dorchester (a proposal very likely to feature in the Dorset Council Local Plan early in 2021) “enhance”* the landscape of Thomas Hardy’s birth parish of Stinsford or, as he termed it in his writing, “Mellstock”?

- the word used by Turnberry, the consultants employed by the North Dorchester Consortium.

Question 3**Submitted by: Cllr Alistair Chisholm, Independent Councillor Dorchester Town Council**

Given that West Dorset's Member of Parliament, Chris Loder, is opposed to the development of 4000 houses immediately north of Dorchester, how will you use this fact to Dorset's advantage in the protection of its remaining rich biodiversity and the fight against climate change – neither of which would be advanced by slavish adherence to the government's inflated housing targets for the county?