

CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

PLANNING WORKING GROUP

REPORT to CVPC January 2021

PWG held its second virtual meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Cllrs Joyce, Vaughan, Noon and Mahaddie (chair) attended.

- 1) It was decided to ask Cllr Jones if she was prepared to join the group and she has subsequently agreed to be co-opted. Our next meeting is scheduled for 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021.
- 2) It was also decided that (subject to Local Environment Group agreement,) the PWG remits should include any issues relating to mains drainage but that individual drainage issues (septic tanks, etc) should be dealt with by LEPG. This has subsequently been agreed by Cllr Carey, chair of the LEWG.

3) AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Aim

It was agreed that the prime object of the project was to provide housing for the next generation of local people currently living in the parish. However, in addition, there could be an opportunity to balance the age structure of the area by attracting younger people to housing or small-holdings from a slightly wider catchment.

Next steps

A Community Land Trust (CLT) was likely to be the best avenue to explore; However, we agreed not to rule out other ways of achieving our objective at this stage.

Experience in Whitchurch and elsewhere has underlined that a dedicated group of people would be needed to work over a long period to achieve success. In Whitchurch that group had been the PC, but elsewhere the work had often been led by others with the PC as facilitator. Members welcomed the idea of a public meeting to kick off the project and attract an active team, but some indication of future need was required first. This might be done by asking DC to carry out a Housing Needs survey but only if the survey allowed respondents to highlight future needs.

Meanwhile PWG is already liaising with Simon Parker of Dorset Council's Housing Enabling Team but needs to contact neighbouring parish councils and collect further information about affordable housing schemes elsewhere.

4) A PLANNING VISION FOR CHAR VALLEY

Some elements of a general vision for the parish were beginning to emerge from our discussions about affordable housing (see above). Other elements would follow from PWG and other WGs as the work progressed.

5) THE PADDOCKS campsite.

A hedge has recently been illegally destroyed and a road built at this campsite. Earlier planning infringements had previously been reported to Dorset Council, but it was agreed to send a further letter of complaint.