

BARROW cum DENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 1st March 2021

Present:

Cllr Pearson Cllr M Howard Cllr Cousins Cllr Bragg	Cllr Holmes Cllr Wesley Cllr Kronbergs Cllr Rawlings	Cllr Ford Cllr Hudson Clerk in attendance: Kat Bowe
---	---	---

Minute Ref		Action
5747	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllr Pettitt	
5748	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS None	
5749	PUBLIC FORUM The public were asked if anyone wanted to bring anything to the attention of the council. A member of the public asked to confirm four facts about the NHP. 1. To confirm there are 12 sites around Barrow submitted in the call for sites. Cllr Howard confirmed this was correct. 2. If all these sites were developed roughly how many houses would it be? Cllr Howard did a rough calculation based on 30 dwellings per hectare which comes out roughly at 1800 dwellings if all the sites were developed. 3 If the Parish Council allocate sites and allocate 77 houses, is that the total development that will happen in Barrow till 2040? Cllr Howard confirmed that the minimum number is 154 over the plan period of which 77 are in the pipeline meaning 77 additional houses are needed. 77 is the minimum number. The Parish must exceed it. This could be done by infill approximately 1 or 2 a year. The numbers are subject to the UK Planning Inspectorate agreeing them. Providing the numbers are agreed then the Parish should expect 77/78 houses plus infill during the planning period to 2040. The Clerk paused the meeting as some parishioners were struggling to access the meeting. Question 4 was asked a second time for clarity. 4. If a site is not designated then WSC could allocate all the sites? Cllr Howard confirmed this is a theoretical possibility they could allocate all the sites but this is unlikely. WSC would allocate sites if, the Parish Council does not allocate sites or the NHP fails the referendum, and the Parish Council does not come up with another one that is voted through.	

	<p>5. WSC must provide 850 houses for the next 20 years and Barrow could be an easy target given that it is a Key Service Centre? Cllr Howard hopes that the NHP with allocated sites will prevent this from happening and confirmed that the Parish Council want parishioner's input.</p> <p>Cllr Pearson questioned that the minimum number would hold good for 20 years. Cllr Howard confirmed there is likely to be a review period. Every few years the Parish Council would have to monitor that the houses are being delivered. It is likely that Government figures will change over the years so there has to be a regular review.</p>	
5750	<p>Site selection process in Neighbourhood Plan – Planning Direct Some Councillors requested a meeting with Planning direct to discuss the allocation of sites process.</p> <p>The NHP is part of the development plan process. The Government set targets, and these are then shared out to individual areas. WSC will decide on numbers for their area based on the settlement hierarchy. If all the land put forward was developed the worst-case scenario would be about 1,800 homes. The NHP could help to restrict this to 77 plus infill. The housing needs calculation for Barrow has been calculated as 154 or which 77 houses are currently in pipeline leaving 77 more to be built. This will be reviewed in the future to ensure the 77 in pipeline have actually been built.</p> <p>The parish council must decide where these houses are going to be built. If this decision is not made it is left up to the developer and WCS to decide. By allocating sites the Parish Council has greater control over where the houses are built.</p> <p><i>How do we select the sites?</i> Selection criteria, including national planning policies and the consultation responses received from the community. Providing the questions have been asked correctly and generated responses than mean something, policies are then formulated around these questions. The policies must reflect the answers of the consultation. The policies must be evidenced back to the consultation process. Once agreed, taking into account general planning guidance, the selection criteria are then drawn up. This is then applied to the sites and the sites are ranked based on how well they fit the criteria.</p> <p>Cllr Hudson expressed concern about the low number of respondents to the consultation. The NHP will not be made until a referendum has been passed. It must pass a democratic threshold of 50/50.</p> <p>Cllr Pearson asked how realistic the number of 77 is. It was stated that the District Council will challenge it, however the number has been arrived at correctly.</p> <p>Cllr Kronbergs confirmed that robustness of responses is being discussed under agenda item 16F.</p> <p>Cllr Cousins mentioned there was a well published report that confirmed the government have changed the algorithm for house building and more will be built in urban areas. Planning Direct stated that figure was brought it for</p>	

	<p>political reasons due to impact on green belt areas in Kent/Sussex and Surrey. Planning Direct were happy to find out if West Suffolk would be affected.</p> <p>Planning Direct recommended moving forward as quickly as possible with the numbers we have.</p> <p>Cllr Ford ask if sites larger than 77 could be discounted. The selection criteria are owned by the Parish Council. Planning Direct will do work around it. One of the criteria could be site size. That would have to be agreed by the parish council.</p>	
5751	<p>COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT Report sent to the Clerk prior to the meeting.</p> <p>The County Council has set its budget. The annual budget is increasing to £297.9m. £15.3 million will be spent on ongoing COVID 19 costs. No proposed reductions to councils' services or personal. 75% of spending goes on the most vulnerable - children and adult social care. There is a 1.99% rise in general council tax and a 2% rise for adult social care precept meaning a total rise of 3.99% for the year.</p> <p>Highways has doubled their drainage budget and Cllr Soons is fighting for Barrow to see the benefits for the parish.</p> <p>Cllr Pearson asked that machinery capable for drains to be emptied, not jetted is used along the street. There are drains with grass growing out of them. These drains need to be evacuated completely. Cllr Soons stated that this is a difference of opinion, but the drainage engineers are saying until the outlet is cleared they can not remove the silt. When the pond is reduced in terms of height Cllr Soons confirmed she would fight for the drains to be cleared. Cllr Pearson requested another meeting as he has read reports confirming the jetted drains are flowing and this is not the case, they are full of silt.</p> <p>Cllr Pearson was concerned that Highways were taking a big cost item and putting that in the way of low cost items that could happen immediately.</p> <p>Cllr Soons to request a meeting however during lockdown he is not agreeing to any meetings. A meeting could take some time to arrange. The Council are prioritising internal flooding. He was clear about what needs to be done that the pond needs to be dredged to give a clear understanding of the outfall.</p> <p>Cllr Pearson confirmed there are issues with other drains near the public house and these drains do not drain into that pond. Cllr Soons to request a meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Cousins explained the frustration of the residents of Denham felt waiting three weeks for the road to be cleared which was totally unacceptable. Cllr Cousins reached out directly to Andrew Read the cabinet member for Highways and Infrastructure, this was the only thing that made a difference and led to a resolution. The road was only passable with extreme care by car. When it froze up it was a lethal death trap. The residents of Denham felt very let down by the Council. This road was not prioritised as there were</p>	

	other major A roads that were under water at the same time. There was a priority system in place.	
5752	<p>To receive the Community Police Report</p> <p>Cllr Rawlings reported that it has been a quiet period, he has found statistics relevant to the Parish. In December there were two reported crimes, one for antisocial behaviour and one violence/sexual. In January there were three reported violence/sexual crimes. Under this category it includes harassment, assault, and domestic violence.</p> <p>Since contacting Suffolk police, there has been a lot of communication regarding setting up Neighbourhood Watch in the Parish. This is something to consider in the future.</p> <p>Suffolk Police are appointing a new Communications Engagement Officer. Once in post Cllr Rawlings will engage with them.</p> <p>Suffolk Police have circulated a poster headed Keep Dogs Under Control. This may not be relevant to Barrow as its more concerning livestock. Cllr Wesley confirmed he has not had any issues with this personally.</p> <p>Cllr Pearson stated he was happy for Cllr Rawlings to circulate anything of relevance.</p>	
5753	<p>Minutes of the last meeting</p> <p>Having been previously circulated, the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 1st February 2021, the minutes were proposed by Cllr Holmes and seconded by Cllr Ford with all Councillors in agreement.</p>	
5754	<p>Village Infrastructure</p> <p>a) Christmas lights The Clerk obtained a quote for additional Christmas lights. This was circulated prior to the meeting. The total cost was £263.65. This was proposed by Cllr Wesley and seconded by Cllr Howard. Clerk will place the order.</p> <p>b) Footpath between Watson Way and Ley Road Cllr Hudson raised a concern regarding the footpath from Watson Way to Ley Road. The path stops abruptly before the pavement on Ley Road. In wet conditions this can make it difficult to get across, especially for wheelchair users and pushchairs. Clerk to establish land ownership and obtain prices for some plastic matting to be installed.</p> <p>c) Collapsed wall The clerk was informed that the wall between the rectory and the church has collapsed. She arranged for the area to be fenced off immediately. The damage was caused by a tree in the rectory. The Diocese is aware of the issue and looking into repairing the wall. Our insurance company has been informed. No further action needed at this point.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

	<p>d) EV charging points in parishes.</p> <p>There are currently grants available towards the installation of EV charging points in parishes, these can be income generating for the Parish. Cllr Pearson to research further.</p>	JP
5755	<p>Quiet Lanes Nomination</p> <p>The Clerk gave an update confirming the lanes put forward had been accepted. Councillors raised concerns over the amount of work that would be needed to implement the quiet lanes and questioned the benefit. The Clerk will find out more information and report back.</p>	Clerk
5756	<p>Eco-Churchyard Project</p> <p>Cllr Hudson reported that a meeting had been held on 23rd January with Revd Lynda and Cllr Kronbergs to discuss the Eco Church Project that several churches are participating in and confirmed that no decisions were made at the meeting.</p> <p>Suffolk Wildlife Trust to survey the area and provide their recommendations. This will happen in March or April. They will assess the church for suitability for swift boxes/bug boxes/tree planting/wildflowers.</p> <p>The areas around the gravestones will continue to be maintained. The Church is hoping to include the wider community in the project and form links with the school. Cllr Hudson will report back at the relevant time with a proposal. Revd Lynda has asked if the Parish Council would consider a grant.</p>	
5757	<p>Mothering Sunday Gift</p> <p>The church plan to deliver plants to ladies within the Parish. The Parish Council have been asked if they can help with delivery. Also, if the Parish Council could make a donation. Parish Council money can no be used for gifts. The Parish Council made the decision that it was not something they could support.</p>	
5758	<p>Highways</p> <p>a) Flooding in Denham</p> <p>This item was discussed under minute reference 5751.</p> <p>Cllr Pearson asked for clarity about the pipe under a driveway. Some reports have suggested the WSC would replace it. Usually, it is the landowner's responsibility. Cllr Soons confirmed the replacement of the pipe is planned for future works; no date has been agreed. There was a suggestion that the ditch should be dug deeper. The landowner has contested this, and Cllr Soons has requested clarity on this. In some areas a bell end has been dug to hold the water back to prevent it flooding onto the road. The ditch is as deep as the bottom of the pipe. Digging the ditch deeper could have the opposite affect and increase the flow of water. The current pipe is too small to cope with the current flow of water.</p> <p>Cllr Holmes confirmed there were two additional pipes that carried water from that site. One was broken when a septic tank was installed. When the barns were converted to housing another pipe was blocked. This will be an ongoing</p>	Clerk

	<p>issue until Highways replace the pipe. Cllr Holmes to provide photos to Cllr Soons showing where the old pipes/ditch were.</p> <p>b) Barrow Hill Speed limit A request was put in to move the 30mph limit on Barrow Hill. Cllr Soons confirmed that unfortunately it is not possible for this to happen.</p> <p>c) Barrow Hill Potholes The potholes on Barrow Hill have got progressively worse. Cllr Pearson reported them three days prior to the accident there. The day after the accident some repairs were carried out. The problem is not yet fully resolved. COVID has meant that the Council have extended repair times to allow for social distancing.</p>	
5759	<p>New Water Pipeline Email circulated prior to the meeting. Anglian Water to install a new waterpipe which goes through Denham. Parish Council have no issues with this. Cllr Wesley to circulate a map of the area.</p>	
5760	<p>Annual Parish Meeting The Annual Parish Meeting must be held between 1st March and 1st June. At present the COVID regulations have not been extended past 6th May. If they are not extended virtual meetings will no longer be permitted. It was decided to hold the meeting prior to this date virtually. The Annual meeting will be on 29th April at 7pm via Zoom. Meeting details to be circulated in Newslink and put on the website.</p>	
5761	<p>Parish Council Meetings Face to Face This will be assessed each month based on current information. April's meeting will be virtual.</p>	
5762	<p>. Neighbourhood Plan a) Habitat Regulation Assessment See appendix 1 attached.</p> <p>The Habitat Regulation Document will be circulated after the meeting.</p> <p>b) Newts See appendix 1 attached.</p> <p>c) Site Selection See appendix 2. The report was circulated prior to the meeting. It is essential to make sure the NHP is robust. This includes site selection. The site selection will be based on evidence and the consultation results. It is important that sites are allocated.</p> <p>Cllr Pearson thinks there could have been some misconception. He did not think it was ever anyone's intention not to allocate sites. It was made clear early on that failure to allocate sites was a poor option.</p>	Clerk

<p>d) Developer presentations See appendix 1 attached.</p> <p>The Clerk to contact developers who have given a presentation previously and ask if they wish to make any changes based on the results of the public consultation.</p> <p>e) Barrow Business Park See appendix 1 attached.</p> <p>f) Parish Consultation Analysis See appendix 3 (separate document)</p> <p>Cllr Howard provided a statistical analysis of question 32 of the consultation results. Surveys are not mandatory and only provide a sample. The consultation also took demographic information. From the data collection, predictions can be made for the non-responding group as they are of a similar demographic. The statistics show that sectors 1, 2 and 3 are less preferred than section 4 even if compensations are made due to population density.</p> <p>Cllr Pearson expressed concerns over whether statistical analysis of an inanimate object can be applied to people with high emotions on a contentious subject. Cllr Howard was showing the amount of accurate data you can generate from a relatively small sample. Our sample is 24% of the adult population and from this we can make some fairly accurate predictions.</p> <p>Cllr Hudson raised concerns over population density and the lack of responses. The survey was launched during a global pandemic when people had other concerns. Cllr Hudson confirmed she has no personal interest and wanted to treat all parishioners equally, however raised concerns over the fact that statistics can be played around with. Cllr Howard confirmed that people will get their say at the referendum. Cllr Hudson wants to ensure that all parishioners are treated fairly and have a voice.</p> <p>89.9% of people voted for a sector that was not their own. If preferences were generated randomly 3 times out of 4 people would select an area other than their own. Some people will have voted 'not in my area' but also there could be a dominant sector. Even when compensations are made due to population density, sector 4 is still the dominant sector.</p> <p>Cllr Howard confirmed that this is just one question from the survey and decisions would not be made on this question alone.</p> <p>Cllr Howard was asked what his motivation was to do this analysis. He stated he wanted to go into more detail, so people had confidence in the results of the consultation. The analysis was carried out to test the robustness of the results.</p> <p>When asked at what point actual sites will be discussed, Cllr Howard confirmed that all data will be collated and sent to Planning Direct. The Parish Council need to decide what the selection criteria will be. There will be several scoring factors for each site to be measured against. Cllr Kronbergs and Cllr Howard to draft the selection criteria. Once agreed Planning direct</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
---	---------------------

	<p>will provide his analysis of the sites. Planning direct are an independent planning consultant providing their recommendations.</p> <p>Cllr Ford asked if the Parish Council could make a recommendation which could then be rubber stamped by Planning direct. Cllr Howard stated he had found the data gathering stage an uphill struggle given the amount of feedback, often negative. He stated that he does not think the Parish Council are up to it and would not complete the task successfully. He also believes an independent recommendation would hold more weight with the parishioners.</p>	
5163	<p>PC Meetings (emails)</p> <p>Cllr Howard encouraged the other parish councillors not to be afraid to give their opinions when a debate gets lively. Debates should happen in public. If people did not feel confident to put forward their views in a public meeting, Cllr Howard does not want to fall back on email for debate. He requested that if Councillors have something to say they should have the courage to say it in a public meeting.</p> <p>Email is an invaluable tool for sending reports etc but contentious issues should be debated in public. The Parish Councils business should be done in public.</p>	
5764	<p>DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT</p> <p>Cllr Houlder was unable to attend.</p>	
5765	<p>Approval of policies and procedures</p> <p>New/revised policies and procedures were circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Rawlings asked for confirmation that the minor changes had been incorporated. The clerk suggested deferring approval to the April meeting so all councillors had had the chance to read through them.</p> <p>This will be an agenda item for April.</p>	Clerk
5766	<p>Financial Matters</p> <p>a) To receive the council's current financial statement</p> <p>Adoption of the Accounts were proposed by Cllr Ford seconded by Cllr Rawlings with all Councillors in agreement.</p> <p>b) To confirm payments.</p> <p>There were no payments to approve.</p> <p>c) Financial Risk Assessment</p> <p>The financial risk assessment was circulated prior to the meeting. This was proposed by Cllr Kronbergs and seconded by Cllr Holmes with all councillors in agreements.</p> <p>d) Grant Applications</p> <p>These were deferred to the next meeting.</p>	Clerk
5767	<p>Recommendations of the Delegation Panel 15 December 2020</p> <p>DC/20/1065/FUL - Planning Application - (i) temporary mobile home (ii) horse walker -</p> <p>Land off Colethorpe Lane, Barrow – Now approved.</p>	

5768	Risk Assessments These were deferred to the next meeting.	Clerk
5769	PLANNING None	
5770	To note the following planning determinations DC/20/2071/HH Dale Tree Cottage 42 Bury Road Barrow IP29 5AB Householder planning application - annexe (following demolition of existing outbuilding) Approved	
5771	Correspondence 20.01.21 360Globalnet Damage to the Pightle Response sent confirming the tree is question is not on Parish Council land. 09.02.21 Resident Flooding in Barrow For information 10.02.21 Cllr Soons Covid 19 FAQ For information 11.02.21 West Suffolk February 2021 Development Management Newsletter For information 12.02.21 West Suffolk Dog Fouling Campaign 2021 Article for Newslink 16.02.21 SALC Local Hospital Plans need you! (New West Suffolk Hospital) Looking for people to put their opinions forward. 16.02.21 SALC New Online Benchmarking Group For information 19.02.21 West Suffolk Co-production - Apprentice Project For information 21.02.21 SALC West Suffolk area forum For information 23.02.21 Cllr Soons Suffolk County Council Statement- one off grit bin refill The grit bin at Brockley Lane needs replacing. Various SALC Latest SALC ebuletin For information	RR
5772	DATE OF NEXT MEETING Monday 12 th April 2021, virtual meeting via Zoom at 7.15pm. The meeting was closed at 9:42pm	

Signed: (Chairman) date.....

Neighbourhood Plan Report

a) Habitat Regulation Assessment

On Friday, I received a draft report from AECOM on the Habitat Regulation Assessment – so it was not in time to circulate for today's meeting but I will circulate tomorrow.

Councillors will recall that this work was commissioned to see if the Breckland Special Protection Area (or other, unknown areas) might impact the Neighbourhood Plan Area and, in particular, whether those sites north of the war memorial might be affected.

AECOM's email accompanying the draft is a good summary "Since your potential allocations are all at some distance from the nearest internationally important wildlife site the extent of potential impact is much the same whatever sites are ultimately allocated.....". Note, the HRA is concerned only with international designations – Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas etc – not, for example, County Wildlife sites.

The report is long, detailed and professional but the implications for the NP are relatively minor. They have made some recommendations on potential policies but I do not see they are particularly significant.

One recommendation is perhaps notable ".....it is recommended that a requirement is added to the Neighbourhood Plan that the allocated sites will be supported, provided the relevant water company can confirm that adequate headroom or increased treatment capacity is available in the in Barrow waste water treatment works."

Having read the report briefly, I don't see significant implications for the NP. Nor do I see that the conclusions and recommendations are particularly contentious. Accordingly, I suggest I circulate the draft report to councillors for comment by email within say 2 weeks; I will compile a list of comments and suggestions and circulate prior to the next PC meeting. If a councillor disagrees and believes a separate meeting is required to discuss this report, I will willingly ask Kat to arrange this.

b) Newts

Following the previous PC meeting, I emailed those parishioners who had sent in details of their newt sightings and told them about how to report their sightings with Suffolk Biodiveristy.

I have drafted a similar report for Newslink and sent that to the Parish Clerk.

c) Site Selection

This is covered by Zigurds Kronbergs.

d) Developer Presentations

It's important that all the various landowners and developers are treated fairly and equally.

We may be open to some criticism that those landowners or developers who present to the PC after publication of the design code and parish consultation may have an unfair advantage.

To rectify this, I suggest Kat writes to those who have presented previously and ask if they would like to amend in light of the published consultation and design code.

e) Barrow Business Park

Recently, I took a call from a parishioner who was concerned about the news of Barrow Business Park.

The conversation was constructive and friendly, but their understanding of the situation with Barrow Business Park was very wrong

I suspect that the news about Barrow Business Park had been so mangled (presumably through multiple re-tellings) that this particular parishioner was expecting the imminent arrival of bulldozers and diggers.

I clarified the position and they were reassured and grateful for the information.

I'm keen that parishioners have good, clear information and I have circulated an explanatory note to councillors and I suggest that it is added to the PC web-site; on Facebook and I will include some similar text is included in my Newslink article on the Neighbourhood Plan.

f) Parish Consultation – Statistical Analysis

See attached presentation.

APPENDIX 2

SITE SELECTION AND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

What is site selection?

Site selection, or allocation, is simply a process through which land within a neighbourhood-plan area can be identified, assessed and prioritised as being potentially suitable for development, with the aim of setting out the community's preferred sites to accommodate future growth.

Why this paper?

I am aware that certain councillors have deep reservations about nominating certain sites as [more] suitable for development [than others]. Given recent history, this is understandable but if the neighbourhood plan ('NP') were not to do so, I believe that would negate much of the purpose and greatly diminish the weight of the whole exercise of producing an NP in the first place.

I therefore aim briefly to set out below the reasons why I believe our NP should allocate sites and why those reasons are in my view overwhelming.

Why should sites be allocated?

It is up to the Parish Council ('PC') as the neighbourhood-planning body to decide whether it would be appropriate for the neighbourhood plan to allocate sites for future development. There are two main points to consider when making this decision.

1 Community-led or developer-led?

The PC as a whole and individual councillors have often expressed frustration at the way we feel the planning authority ignores our recommendations and objections. The NP provides us with the opportunity to allow the community to exercise the maximum power and pressure that it has within the current planning framework.

Essentially, if the NP allocates sites, it provides the community (which ultimately is the decision maker – see below) with control over what is developed and where. This is a powerful part of any neighbourhood plan.

It is our community's opportunity to set out how and where future development should take place rather than leaving this to developers, landowners and West Suffolk to determine.

2 Scale of future development

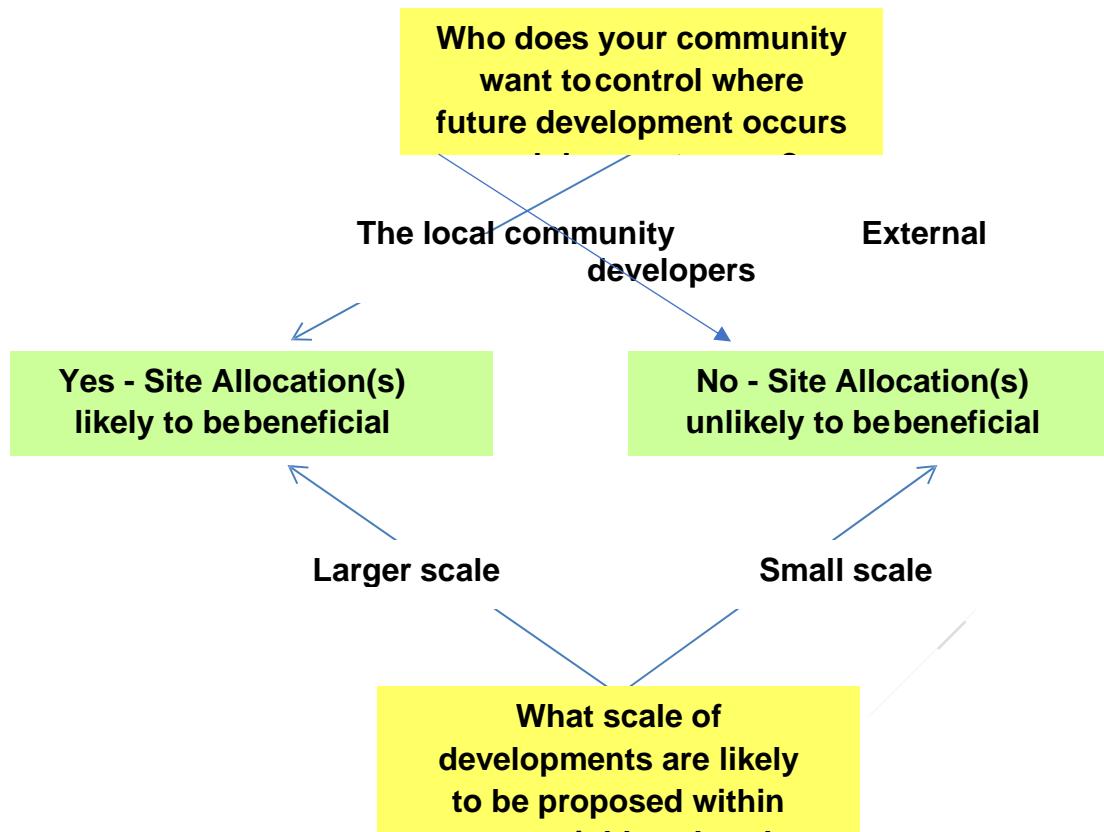
We know from the housing-requirement figures that at least 77 new houses will need to be built over the plan period. This number cannot be met by infill alone. Therefore at least one adequately sized site will be needed.

If our community wants to exercise the maximum amount of special control that it is allowed over where development happens, we need to allocate sites and provide soundly based evidence how those sites have been chosen above other land and, equally importantly, why other areas have not been allocated.

If we duck the choice on behalf of the community, developers will seek to build on the sites that are most attractive to them and we shall have relinquished community control.

The consultation we have already conducted as part of the emerging NP demonstrated a feeling that many of us were already aware of: a desire for a **minimum** amount of development. Zero development is not an option. The calculated housing numbers represent the minimum. If the PC does not exercise the option to select sites, West Suffolk will select sites for us. Past experience suggests that its selection is likely to be of a number and scale that could far exceed the minimum possible from a selection made by the NP. West Suffolk, through the SHELAA, has already proposed sites many of which we feel are unsuitable or threaten development of a scale wholly beyond what is needed.

The diagram below illustrates these choices quite well.



NB: 'larger-scale development' is any number above 30.

Taking the lead

It is a fact that making a choice of this sort will not be popular with everyone and will arouse opposition in some quarters. Some councillors may not wish to risk the sort of controversy with which the last attempt by the Parish Council (in its previous composition) to take the initiative was met. But whatever the intrinsic merits or demerits of that proposal, it was launched on the community without prior consultation and based on no evidence other than the willingness of the landowners to offer an element of public gain. Moreover, it was a proposal launched jointly by the PC and landowners. Allocating sites through a neighbourhood plan is not the PC's choice, nor the choice of developers or landowners, **it is the community's choice**.

Allocating sites as part of a neighbourhood plan is a wholly different matter. It would follow a call for sites and careful, community consultation, and assessment of suitability based on objective criteria. Provided that the choice is soundly evidence-based, the Parish Council, via the NP, should not be afraid to take the lead. As the democratic and legitimate voice of the people of Barrow and Denham, it should confidently make and defend policy, and not surrender the initiative to pressure groups, however vociferous.

Who is the ultimate arbiter?

It should not be forgotten that the Parish Council may propose but the community disposes. It is the electors of Barrow and Denham who have the ultimate say. Whether or not it allocates sites, the NP will need to be vigorously explained and defended. If a majority of those who vote in the mandatory referendum still reject the plan, we shall have to revise it accordingly. However, it would not show leadership to evade making any choice at all. As explained above, being silent on sites surrenders the initiative completely and leaves the community a hostage to fortune.

Conclusion

- A neighbourhood plan does not have to allocate sites
- No further development is not an option
- If the neighbourhood plan does not allocate sites, it surrenders control over the process wholly to developers and other parties, who do not hold the community's interests paramount. It is a neighbourhood plan without teeth
- It is not the PC that allocates sites; ultimately, it is the community via the NP

- **A sound, evidence-based site allocation will encourage sustainable development to be directed to the most appropriate locations. It can also specify what type of development should be permitted on the site or sites concerned**

Cllr Zigurds Kronbergs
February 2021

Appendix 3

Parish Council Statistical Analysis – see separate document,