

Parish Council Liaison Meeting 7 April 2011

Local Development Framework (LDF) update

What is the LDF?

The LDF is our plan for the future. When adopted by the Council, it will set out how many homes we should plan for over the next 15 years and where they should go. It will also promote job creation by allocating land for employment uses, encourage better town centres by steering new retail development to existing towns and help provide other community facilities. The LDF will also seek to protect the environment at the same time as promoting sustainable growth.

Previous LDF consultation

During summer 2009 we consulted on “revised options” for the LDF Core Strategy. This was mainly to ask for views on how we could accommodate the number of new homes required by the “top down” housing target in place at the time. Understandably, this caused some controversy due to the amount of Green Belt land release that could have been required. Around 6,000 comments were received along with considerable press coverage. Since 2009 we have considered the consultation response received and published two feedback reports in Dec 2009 and June 2010 seeking to answer concerns.

Work since that time

We have also redrafted the LDF in response to public concern and the new direction brought about by the change in government. Although the regional “top down” target is still technically in place, the upcoming Localism Bill will abolish these targets towards the end of 2011. Reflecting this, we have drawn up a much lower local housing target and framed our draft strategy around this.

Current programme

Subject to member approval, we intend to consult on the LDF during summer 2011. This will cover both the LDF strategy in terms of the broad amount and distribution of new homes and employment land; and the detail in terms of initial consultation on potential development sites around all the Borough’s communities.

How Parish Councils can help

We need your help. Any support that Parish Councils can offer would be welcome, particularly with getting the message out to people that the consultation is taking place and how important it is that people contribute. By influencing where people live, work and spend their leisure time the plan will shape people’s lives in the future.

Localism implications

The Localism Bill will have many implications for Parish Councils, which the recent Member Development Sessions covered in some detail. The potential impact of Neighbourhood Plans, Neighbourhood Development Orders and the Community Right to Build are only just being considered by those potentially affected.

AD 7/4/11