

NP REPORT TO CBPC MEETING ON 4TH OCTOBER 2021

1. Options Consultation Events

The main focus of activity over the month of September has been on the preparation and holding of the various Consultation Events in the 4 villages. Two events were held in each village in order to give residents the best possible chance of attending. below is a brief summary of the level of interest in each village.

a. ABBOTSBURY

The level of interest shown by the residents of Abbotsbury was very disappointing but not totally unexpected given that no sites had been put forward for the parish, except for one in Rodden. We had one person from Fleet and 2 from LH over the 2 sessions which possibly exceeded the number of attendees from Abbotsbury.

b. FLEET

This turned about to be the most contentious session, mostly around FL11, Bagwell Farm. The Call for Sites form which we forwarded to AECOM mentioned that the possibility of affordable homes, but unfortunately the potential site was not mapped and this led to some unfortunate exchanges between the residents who attended and the NPSG representatives at the sessions. We are arranging a re-run of the Options Consultation in an effort to set the record straight at Fleet on October 9th.

c. LANGTON HERRING

Given that there were several sites submitted it was no surprise that there was a lot of interest from the residents of LH. Over the 2 sessions there must have been over 50 people. Some of the residents seemed quite fearful about what it might mean, but hopefully by explaining the process their fears have been mitigated. There will always be those who oppose any change whatsoever, but there were also those who accepted that change can sometimes be a good thing. In general the feedback tended to align with the AECOM assessments, with the sites marked as RED getting a "definitely not" vote. In general the sessions were quite positive and people were very complimentary about both the quality of the work and how much had been done.

d. PORTESHAM

With just the one site from Portesham perhaps attendance was never going to be high. We probably had between 20 and 30 over the 2 sessions with 4 attendees from LH. However, the people who did come stayed for some time and studied the documents in some detail. There seemed to be more concerns about the implications of traffic volumes/ speed and flooding of further development. Some also expressed concerns about the impact of further development on some of the existing views. Again, mostly positive discussions and good feedback on the amount of work we had done.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the Parish Clerk's outstanding effort on coordinating these events, which she did almost single handed. Without her expertise and organisation these events could not have taken place.

2. SEA FUNDING

We have successfully applied for additional Technical Support from Locality (20/9) for Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA), which determines if a plan or project might affect the protected features of a habitats site before deciding to undertake, permit or authorise it.

3. FUTURE WORK

As we move into the next phases of work, it is becoming increasingly clear to me that we need additional effort on the NPSG if we are to maintain momentum. As I remarked earlier a lot of the responsibility for the Option Consultation Meetings fell to the Parish Clerk, and ideally more help should have been forthcoming from the Group. It is my responsibility to try and raise the energy levels of the Group, since there is still a long way to go. I am actively trying to recruit new people into the Group.