

UPLEADON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a virtual Zoom meeting of Upleadon Parish Council held on Thursday 17 December 2020 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllr H Dunn (Chair), Cllr Mrs W Fabian, Cllr Mrs P Cooke, Cllr M Manning, Cllr Mrs P Turner, Cllr P Dallow

District Cllr P Burford was also present

Cllr Wood joined the meeting at 8.09 pm.

Public participation

None

6.00 Apologies

There were no apologies

6.1 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest

6.2 Business

6.2.1 To give consideration to consultation – FoDDC Local Plan 2021-2041 Preferred Option

District Cllr Burford referred Cllrs to last year when the District Council considered the development of a new Forward Plan – Issues and Options to enable the District to meet the housing requirement for 2021-2041 – a need to find 8000 new homes. Four thousand were already on identified sites with 4000 to be found elsewhere. Two options had come from this – to spread the housing in a fair manner around the District or alternatively to create a new village/town on a site to be identified.

Since then, following Covid-19 work and travel patterns have changed which may impact on the preferred option. Of the responses received, from the Parishes he represented, led Cllr Burford to believe the dispersed option giving a 10% growth in each of the villages was the favoured option. Cabinet took the view however it wished to push forward with a new development – in the A40/A48 area. All supporting paperwork identified a new settlement in Churcham. If this went ahead, it would take some while to develop and in the meantime there would be some growth of housing particularly in Newent and at Beachley areas, plus 2000 in this plan period.

To put it into perspective, a town of 10,000 houses would equate to an area the size of Lydney, twice the size of Newent. This would likely suck all investment from the rest of the Forest of Dean with the towns of Lydney and Coleford suffering.

Churcham Parish Council whilst happy to take a modest income of homes are against a new village/town in their area and are formally challenging it. Of significant importance is that if the ultimate solution is a new town and it is not at Churcham it could have the potential to be in an area similar to/near to Upleadon – an equally attractive area as Churcham to select.

Members discussed at length the need for Upleadon to have low cost affordable housing to enable young people to be able to buy and therefore stay in the areas in which they grew up. The general consensus was that a dispersed option was a much better option for Upleadon,

Cllr Mrs Fabian proposed that a response to the consultation be made that Upleadon Parish Council object to a proposal to create a new village/town and would prefer to see a dispersed option. Upleadon would favour up to 10 new homes in its parish with a proportion of these being affordable housing. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs Cooke and unanimously agreed.

Cllr Burford was thanked by the Chairman for informing Members about the District Council's position in this matter and the options open to the Parish of Upleadon.

The meeting closed at 20.15 pm.