

Presentation to Milborne Port Parish Council 14-May-19

- Prompted by the Jan-19 Planning Hearing connected with the Station Road development, a group of 9 local residents concerned with the scale, pace and form of new residential development in Milborne Port, met on 4-Feb to discuss the possibility of a Neighbourhood Plan for the village
- The group consisted of 9 local residents, 2 of whom are serving Parish councillors. A presentation was given by David Torrence Vice Chairman of Yetminster & Ryme Intrinsic Parish council, and Parish council representative on the Parish Neighbourhood Plan committee. David is an expert on Neighbourhood planning, and a representative for Locality - the arm of central government that supports communities, including guidance on Neighbourhood Plans.
- The MP Group heard advice that a Neighbourhood Plan could be feasible for MP in a 2-3 yr window, and confirmation that multiple local settlements have already completed plans (eg. South Petherton, East Coker, Wincanton) or have them in advanced stages.
- Furthermore it was confirmed that the Neighbourhood Plan would confer broader and more robust legal protection than the existing parish plan MP has - now more than a decade out of date.
- The residents group took as an action, the preparation and distribution of a questionnaire to gauge support from Village organisations for a potential Neighbourhood team, and canvass their opinions on what issues development needs to focus on.
- A questionnaire was sent to 16 village organisations, and to date 7 responses have been received back, and pledges from a further 5 are outstanding that have been promised.
Support for a Neighbourhood Plan was unanimous.
- Some quotes include
 - “Increasingly becoming a dormitory village with fewer amenities”
 - “small homes with inadequate parking facilities have littered our lanes with parked vehicles”
 - “a totally different approach is needed, with more investment in infrastructure, eg. vehicle free areas, more green spaces with safe spaces for children to play close to their homes,
 - **“Ensure development has** adequate drainage & water supply”
 - “Maintain a village feel”
 - “housing consideration for first time buyers”
 - “if more housing is needed it should come straight off the A30, not side roads”

- “Encourage independent high street shops for a thriving community once again”
 - “development should not obscure the important historic fabric of the village, and respect its conservation areas”
 - “improve pavements to give safe access to all facilities eg. school, shops, garage”
 - Safety when crossing the A30”
 - “need to preserve green fields for wildlife and the agricultural economy”
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- We believe these comments clearly echo the sentiments expressed in recent MPPC surveys 2017 & 2018
 - Furthermore the residents group considers that based on evidence from the recent questionnaire, that the Parish Council should support taking a Neighbourhood Plan to the next stage, this would be an information flyer to households pending a referendum of Residents.
 - A Neighbourhood Plan would require endorsement from MPPC (but not have to be run by them), and would have representation on the NP Committee

Thank you for considering this proposal at your first PC meeting as a newly elected body.