

You are requested to attend a meeting of the Planning Committee to be held in The John Meikle Room, The Deane House, Belvedere Road, Taunton on 9 November 2011 at 17:00.

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## **Agenda**

- 1 Apologies.
- 2 Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 28 September 2011 (attached)
- 3 Public Question Time.
- 4 Declaration of Interests  
To receive declarations of personal or prejudicial interests, in accordance with the Code of Conduct.
- 5 08/10/0008 - Residential development of 27 affordable dwellings with associated parking and site works forming Phase 1 at land to the north of Ladymead Community School, Cheddon Road, Taunton.
- 6 08/10/0009 - Outline application for a residential development of 100 affordable dwellings with associated site works on land north of Ladymead Community School, Cheddon Road, Taunton.
- 7 08/11/0021 - Erection of single storey rear extension at 5 The Shoulders, Cheddon Fitzpaine.
- 8 47/11/0008 - Erection of two storey extension and porch to the west elevation, and change of use of part of adjoining field to incorporate within domestic curtilage at Mitchams, Prey Lane, Slough Green, West Hatch (resubmission of 47/11/0006).
- 9 Miscellaneous report - 38/09/0359 - Erection of 18 affordable apartments together with associated access works, parking and landscaping on land at 49 Wordsworth Drive, Taunton. Report of the Development Management Lead (attached).
- 10 E/0185/38/11 - Large container sited to the front of garages on Rydon Lane, Taunton.
- 11 Planning Appeals - The latest appeal lodged (attached).

The following items are likely to be considered after the exclusion of the press and public because of the likelihood that exempt information would otherwise be disclosed relating to the Clause set out below of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

- 12 Schedule of Alleged Contraventions up to 30 September 2011. Report of the Development Management Lead (attached).  
Paragraph 2 - Information which was likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

Tonya Meers  
Legal and Democratic Services Manager

12 January 2012

Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting and listen to the discussions.

There is time set aside at the beginning of most meetings to allow the public to ask questions.

Speaking under “Public Question Time” is limited to 4 minutes per person in an overall period of 15 minutes. The Committee Administrator will keep a close watch on the time and the Chairman will be responsible for ensuring the time permitted does not overrun. The speaker will be allowed to address the Committee once only and will not be allowed to participate further in any debate.

If a member of the public wishes to address the Committee on any matter appearing on the agenda, the Chairman will normally permit this to occur when that item is reached and before the Councillors begin to debate the item.

This is more usual at meetings of the Council’s Planning Committee and details of the “rules” which apply at these meetings can be found in the leaflet “Having Your Say on Planning Applications”. A copy can be obtained free of charge from the Planning Reception Desk at The Deane House or by contacting the telephone number or e-mail address below.

If an item on the agenda is contentious, with a large number of people attending the meeting, a representative should be nominated to present the views of a group.

These arrangements do not apply to exempt (confidential) items on the agenda where any members of the press or public present will be asked to leave the Committee Room.

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Lift access to the John Meikle Room and the other Committee Rooms on the first floor of The Deane House, is available from the main ground floor entrance. Toilet facilities, with wheelchair access, are also available off the landing directly outside the Committee Rooms.



An induction loop operates to enhance sound for anyone wearing a hearing aid or using a transmitter.

**For further information about the meeting, please contact Democratic Services on 01823 356382 or email [d.durham@tauntondeane.gov.uk](mailto:d.durham@tauntondeane.gov.uk)**

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### **Planning Committee Members:-**

Councillor C Bishop	(Chairman)
Councillor S Coles	(Vice-Chairman)
Councillor J Allgrove	
Councillor R Bowrah, BEM	
Councillor B Denington	
Councillor A Govier	
Councillor C Hill	
Councillor M Hill	
Councillor L James	
Councillor N Messenger	
Councillor I Morrell	
Councillor J Reed	
Councillor F Smith	
Councillor P Tooze	
Councillor P Watson	
Councillor A Wedderkopp	
Councillor D Wedderkopp	
Councillor G Wren	

## **Planning Committee – 28 September 2011**

Present:- Councillor Bishop (Chairman)  
Councillor Coles (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillors Mrs Allgrove, Bowrah, Denington, Govier, Hill, Miss James, Morrell, Mrs Reed, Mrs Smith, Tooze, Watson, A Wedderkopp, D Wedderkopp and Wren

Officers:- Mr T Burton (Growth and Development Manager), Mr B Kitching (Development Management Lead), Mrs J Moore and Mr A Pick (Major Applications Co-ordinators), Mr M Bale (West Area Co-ordinator), Mrs J Jackson (Legal Services Manager), Miss M Casey (Planning and Litigation Solicitor) and Mrs G Croucher (Democratic Services Officer)

Also present: Councillor Cavill in relation to application No 48/10/0072; Councillor Williams in relation to application No 19/11/0003LB; Councillor Hayward in relation to agenda item No 12; and Mrs A Elder, Chairman of the Standards Committee

(The meeting commenced at 5.00 pm)

### **84. Apologies**

Mrs M Hill and Mrs Messenger.

### **85. Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 17 August 2011 and 7 September 2011 were taken as read and were signed.

### **86. Declarations of Interest**

Councillors Govier and D Wedderkopp declared personal interests as Members of Somerset County Council. Councillor Mrs Smith declared a personal interest as an employee of Somerset County Council. Councillor Miss James declared a personal interest as an employee of Viridor. Councillor Tooze declared a personal interest as an employee of UK Hydrographic Office. Councillor Wren declared a personal interest as an employee of Natural England. Councillor Mrs Reed declared a personal interest as her daughter worked as an administrator in Development Control. Councillor Watson declared that he had attended a parish council meeting where application No 06/11/0032 had been discussed. However, he did not consider that he had fettered his discretion. Councillor Coles declared that he had discussed application No 19/11/003LB but he did not consider that he had fettered his discretion. Councillor Cavill declared a personal interest in application No 19/11/0003LB. Councillor Wren declared that he had been contacted by a member of the public in relation to application No 21/10/0006. However, he did not consider that he had fettered his discretion. Councillors Bowrah, Govier and Mrs Reed declared that application Nos 43/11/0075 and 43/11/0076LB had been discussed at Wellington Town Council. However, they did not consider that they had fettered their discretion.

### **87. Applications for Planning Permission**

The Committee received the report of the Growth and Development Manager on applications for planning permission and it was **resolved** that they be dealt with as follows:-

- (1) That **full planning permission be granted** for the under-mentioned developments:-

**07/11/0009**

**Erection of a dwelling at land adjacent to Bradford Court, Bradford on Tone**

**Conditions**

- (a) The development hereby permitted shall be begun within three years of the date of this permission;
- (b) The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans:-
- (A1) DrNo 4116/10 (as received 24.08.2011) site and location plans;
  - (A2) DrNo SPP/1652/2A Planting Proposals; and
  - (A1) DrNo 4117/11 floor plans and elevations;
- (c) Prior to the commencement of the development hereby permitted, details of a strategy to protect wildlife and enhance the site for wildlife shall be submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority. The strategy shall be based on the advice of JH Ecology's submitted report, dated June 2011 and include:-
- Details of protective measures to include method statements to avoid impacts on protected species during all stages of development;
  - Details of the timing of works to avoid periods of work when the species could be harmed by disturbance;
  - Measures for the retention and replacement and enhancement of places of rest for the species.

Once approved, the works shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details and timing of the works unless otherwise approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority and thereafter the resting places and agreed accesses for wildlife shall be permanently maintained. The development shall not be occupied until the scheme for the maintenance and provision of the new resting places and related accesses has been fully implemented;

- (d) Prior to their installation, samples and/or details of the materials to be used in the construction of the external surfaces and the private drive of the development hereby permitted shall be submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority and a sample panel of the proposed external facing material measuring at least 1m x 1m shall have been built on the site for the inspection of the Local Planning Authority. Development shall be carried out and thereafter retained as such, in accordance with the approved details as above, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority;
- (e) Prior to their installation, full details, including sections, profiles mouldings and external finishes of the proposed windows and doors shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Such agreed details shall

be implemented prior to the occupation of the dwelling hereby permitted and shall, thereafter, be retained as such;

- (f) (i) The landscaping/planting scheme shown on the submitted plan SPP/1652/2A hereby permitted shall be completely carried out within the first available planting season from the date of commencement of the development.
- (ii) For a period of five years after the completion of the landscaping scheme, the trees and shrubs shall be protected and maintained in a healthy weed free condition and any trees or shrubs that cease to grow, shall be replaced by trees or shrubs of similar size and species or other appropriate trees or shrubs as may be approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority;
- (g) Prior to the occupation of the dwelling hereby permitted visibility shall be improved at the junction with the public highway to ensure that there is no obstruction to visibility in excess of 900mm above the carriageway level forward of a line drawn 2.4m back and parallel to the nearside carriageway edge over a distance of 70m to the west of the access point. Such visibility shall thereafter be maintained at all times;
- (h) Prior to the occupation of the dwelling hereby permitted, the renewable energy equipment and apparatus detailed in Appendix 1 of the 'Renewable Energy Systems for Proposed Dwelling to the South of Bradford Court' document dated August 2011, as amended 15.09.2011 and submitted with the application shall be completely installed and operational, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority;
- (i) The dwelling hereby permitted shall not be occupied until it has been verified by a qualified assessor and submitted in writing to the Local Planning Authority that a standard of energy efficiency for the dwelling has been achieved that is at least 65% better than that Part L of the Building Regulations 2006 as defined in column 2 of the table on page 7 of the BREAM Code for Sustainable Homes dated December 2006;
- (j) Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 3 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 ('the 1995 Order') (or any Order revoking and re-enacting the 1995 Order with or without modification), no extensions or alterations shall be carried out to the dwelling, no outbuildings shall be erected and no fences, gates, walls or other means of enclosure shall be erected other than those expressly authorised by this permission shall be carried out without the further grant of planning permission.

### **Reason for granting planning permission:-**

The proposal was considered not to have a detrimental impact upon visual or residential amenity, the setting of the listed building, character and appearance of the Conservation Area or highway safety and was therefore considered to be in accordance with Taunton Deane Local Plan Policies S1 (General Requirements), S2 (Design), EN14 (Conservation Areas); Somerset and Exmoor National Park Joint Structure Plan Review Policies 9 (The Built Historic Environment) and 49 (Transport Requirements of New Developments); Sections 66 and 72 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and advice contained in Planning Policy Statement 5. Despite being located within an unsustainable location in transport terms the site was, largely, within the identified settlement limit for Bradford on Tone and, given the proposed energy performance and renewable energy credentials of the dwelling, the proposal was considered to be acceptable.

**43/11/0075**

**Change of use from A1 retail to A3/A5 restaurant/take away and internal alterations at 17 Fore Street, Wellington**

**Conditions**

- (a) The development hereby permitted shall be begun within three years of the date of this permission;
- (b) The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans:-
  - (A3) Location Plan
  - (A1) DrNo 2011.03.02 Proposed Plans - Section and Elevations;
  - (A1) DrNo 5188.1 Ground, First and Second Floor Plans;
  - (A1) DrNo 5188.2 Front, Rear and Side Elevation;
  - (A1) DrNo 5188.3 Section A-A, B-B and C-C;
  - (A1) DrNo 5188.4 Layout;
  - (A3) Unnumbered detail of extract duct, received 22/09/2011;
- (c) The premises shall only be open for trade between the hours of 08.00 and 23.00 on any given day. No food shall be served later than 22.00 on any given day;
- (d) Prior to its installation, full details of the extract duct terminal details shall be submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority;
- (e) The use of the premises shall be restricted to Class A1 and A3/A5 and for no other purpose (including any other purpose in Class A2 of the Schedule to the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987, or in any provision equivalent to that Class in any statutory instrument revoking and re-enacting that Order with or without modification).

(Note to applicant:- Applicant was advised that the Local Planning Authority would encourage the use of the upper floors of the building, advising that the use of the upper floors for a single residential unit would not require planning permission.)

**Reason for granting planning permission:-**

The proposed change of use would improve the marketability of the existing retail premises, increasing the likelihood that a use could be found, which would bring the empty shop back into use, to the benefit of the vitality and viability of the town centre. Any impacts on neighbouring property would be acceptable given the town centre location and the proposal would preserve the listed building and its setting and the character and appearance of the Conservation Area. It was, therefore, in accordance with Policies S1 (General Principles) and W7 (Primary Shopping Areas), EN14 (Conservation Areas) of the Taunton Deane Local Plan, Policy 9 (The Built Historic Environment) of the Somerset and Exmoor National Park Joint Structure Plan Review, and Sections 66 and 72 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

**43/11/0076LB**

**Change of use from A1 retail to A3/A5 restaurant/take away and internal alterations at 17 Fore Street, Wellington**

**Conditions**



- (a) The works for which consent is hereby granted shall be begun not later than the expiration of three years from the date of this consent;
  - (b) The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans:-
    - (A3) Location Plan;
    - (A1) DrNo 2011.03.02 Proposed Plans - Section and Elevations;
    - (A1) DrNo 5188.1 Ground, First and Second Floor Plans;
    - (A1) DrNo 5188.2 Front, Rear and Side Elevation;
    - (A1) DrNo 5188.3 Section A-A, B-B and C-C;
    - (A1) DrNo 5188.4 Layout;
    - (A3) Unnumbered detail of extract duct, received 22/09/2011;
  - (c) Prior to commissioning, specific details of the following shall be submitted to, and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, with such approved details being strictly adhered to in the implementation of the approved works, unless any variation thereto is first agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority: Ventilation runs and terminals for WC's and kitchen extract duct, suspended ceilings, lighting regime.
- (Note to applicant:- Applicant was advised that the redecoration of the shop front and new signs are likely to require listed building consent in addition to advertisement consent.)

**Reason for granting listed building consent:-**

It was considered that the proposal was in line with PPS5 and Policy 9 of the Somerset and Exmoor National Park Joint Structure Plan Review in respect of proposals relating to listed buildings. Therefore, it was considered that the listed building, its setting and any features of historic or architectural interest would be preserved, in accordance with Section 16 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

- (2) That **planning permission be refused** for the under-mentioned developments:-

**19/11/0003LB**

**Erection of single storey extension (Scheme A) to east elevation at Buttles Lodge, Village Road, Hatch Beauchamp**

**Reasons**

- (a) The extension, by reason of its size, location, design and form, would detract from the modest, compact scale, elegant simple form, harmonious, balanced composition, self contained appearance and distinctiveness of the host building and result in an incoherent addition. As such, the proposal is deemed not to preserve the character of the listed building and hence is contrary to Section 16 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, Planning Policy Statement 5 and Policy 9 of the Somerset and Exmoor National Park Joint Structure Plan Review;
- (b) Buttles Lodge is a largely unaltered example of a former lodge/estate workers dwelling. The extension, by reason of its size, form and location, would detract from the essential qualities of the host building's existing balanced

composition, debase the ready perception of its former use and existing spacious setting. In addition, it is considered that no evidence has been submitted to suggest that, if an extension was not allowed, the building would fall into disrepair or become unused. As such, the proposal is not considered to preserve the character of the Listed Building or its setting and hence contrary to Section 16 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, Planning Policy Statement 5 and Policy 9 of the Somerset and Exmoor National Park Joint Structure Plan Review.

(Note to applicant:- Applicant was advised that a separate application for planning permission is required.)

**21/10/0006**

**Change of use of land for siting of two mobile homes for travelling family at Carriers Gate Orchard, Higher Poleshill Farm, Langford Budville (retention)**

### **Reason**

The proposal is contrary to Policies S1, S2, S7, EN2 and EN12 of Taunton Deane Local Plan and Policies 1, 5, STR1 and STR6 of the Somerset and Exmoor National Park Structure Plan, and guidance contained with PPS1, PPS7, PPS9 and PPG13 for the following reasons:-

(i) The site is in an unsustainable location, outside of any defined settlement limit, poorly served by public transport, with no lit pedestrian footways, and is remote from services and amenities, and would therefore increase reliance on the private motorcar and foster growth in the need to travel.

(ii) The development by reason of its design and appearance is out of character with its rural setting and adversely affects the visual amenities of the area; and

(iii) No overriding evidence has been submitted to demonstrate that the applicants' accord with the definition of a 'traveller' as defined, for planning purposes, in Circular 01/2006 - Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites. Therefore Policy H14 of the Local Plan is not applicable in the balance of planning considerations.

Also **resolved** that enforcement action seeking the cessation of the use of the land for residential use, the removal of the caravans from the site and the reinstatement of the land to its former condition be deferred for six months to allow the applicants sufficient time to submit further details.

- 88. Development of 138 houses and apartments with associated access roads, garages and parking, together with public open space landscaping and a section of the new Western Relief Road, attenuation ponds, storm/foul sewers and cycle/footpaths at land north of Aginghills Farm, Monkton Heathfield (48/10/0072)**

Reported this application.

**Resolved** that subject to:-

(a) no new points of objection being raised by the occupants of 11 and 13 Sylvan Way and Llanstefan, Milton Hill, Monkton Heathfield by 12 October 2011;

(b) the receipt of acceptable internal highway layout details; and

(c) the applicants entering into a Section 106 agreement to secure the following:-

1. Transportation- A package of highway improvements including:-

- (i) The provision of a roundabout at the site access onto Milton Hill incorporating the diversion of Milton Hill and an associated pedestrian/cycle crossing of Milton Hill north of the roundabout;
- (ii) The construction of that part of the Western Relief Road (WRR) necessary to gain access into the development together with the dedication of the land for highway purposes that part of the WRR corridor within the application site not constructed for access purposes;
- (iii) Traffic management works to Dyers Lane in the form of signs, road markings etc to improve provision for cyclist and pedestrians, particularly school children;
- (iv) A Travel plan (as outlined in the County Highway Authority's comments set out in the report); and
- (v) A financial contribution of £250,000, or as otherwise agreed, towards the construction of mitigation works at the Milton Hill Junction with the A38 which if not spent shall be put towards the cost of the WRR.

2. Affordable housing - 46 units comprising:-

27 x 2 bed houses;

13 x 3 bed houses;

6 x 4 bed houses.

Ownership to be 50% social rent and 50% shared ownership.

3. Education requirements

Secondary Education:-

- The secondary education contribution to be calculated on the basis of 0.14286 pupil places per dwelling and a cost per place of £18,469;
- The contribution will be payable in two stages, a) at occupation of the 40th dwelling; and b) at occupation of the 80th dwelling. The first stage contribution shall be based on 79 dwellings and the second stage contribution shall be based on the total number of dwellings to be constructed in the development less the 79 dwellings accounted for in the first stage contribution;

- Prior to each stage payment the number of surplus places in Taunton secondary schools the previous September will be compared to the relevant figure in the following table:-

<b>Year, September</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Surplus places</b>	191	174	124	25	-54

- In the event that additional places have been added to one or more schools between the date of the agreement and the date for which the comparison is made, then any such additional places will not be taken into account. For the avoidance of doubt the existing capacities of the Taunton schools are as follows, at the date of the agreement:-

<b>School</b>	<b>Net Capacity</b>
Taunton Academy	1050
Bishop Fox's School	915
The Castle School	1219
Heathfield Community School	1181
<b>Total</b>	<b>4365</b>

- Should there be more surplus places (or a smaller deficit) than indicated in the surplus places table the contribution shall be reduced by taking account of the development's share of those additional places. The number of places for which a contribution will not be required will be the number of additional surplus places multiplied by the number of dwelling occupations in the development divided by the total number of dwelling occupations in the Taunton and West Monkton wards since February 2011;
- In the case of the second stage payment calculation, any surplus places previously discounted from the development contribution will not be discounted again.

#### Primary Education:-

- The primary education contribution is to be calculated on the basis of 0.20 pupil places per dwelling and a cost per place of £12,257. (The expectation is a total contribution of about £340,000.) The primary education contribution will be made in three equal payments at 15th, 40th and 80th dwelling occupation;
- All contributions are subject to indexation, using the BCIS General Building Cost Index from the date of the agreement;
- All contributions will be subject to a refund with interest of any money unspent (or uncommitted by the letting of a contract) seven years after receipt;

Discussions are continuing about whether it would be appropriate to recognise that a proportion of people moving into the affordable housing are likely to be already in the area – thus reducing the contributions required. This is agreed in principle as a possibility, but no discount has been agreed at present - this will depend on the availability of appropriately detailed information about the existing area of residence of those seeking affordable housing. If an adjustment is agreed this could be included by discounting a proportion of the affordable dwellings from the calculations set out above,

The Growth and Development Manager be authorised to determine the application in consultation with the Chairman or Vice-Chairman and, if planning permission was granted, the following conditions be imposed:-

- (a) The development hereby permitted shall be begun within three years of the date of this permission;
- (b) The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans:-

- (A0) DrNo 1021 Site survey sheet 1 of 2;
- (A0) DrNo 1021 Site survey sheet 2 of 2;
- (A3) Masterplan;
- (A3) DrNo 0095/2010 Layout plan;
- (A0) DrNo 0900/100 Location Plan;
- (A1) DrNo 09001/001 Rev I Proposed Site Layout Plan;
- (A1) DrNo 09001/102 Rev C Enclosures plan (1 of 3);
- (A1) DrNo 09001/103 Rev C Enclosures plan (2 of 3);
- (A1) DrNo 09001/104 Rev C Enclosures plan (3 of 3);
- (A2) DrNo 09001/105 Enclosure details;
- (A0) DrNo 09001/106 Rev C Materials Plan;
- (A1) DrNo 09001/107 Rev C Storey Heights;
- (A0) DrNo Bir.3536\_07 Soft Landscape Proposals Sheet 1 of 4;
- (A0) DrNo Bir.356\_08A Soft Landscape Proposals Sheet 2 of 4;
- (A0) DrNo Bir.3536\_09A Soft Landscape Proposals Sheet 3 of 4;
- (A0) DrNo Bir.3536\_11A Soft Landscape Proposals Sheet 4 of 4;
- (A1) DrNo Bir.3536\_10 A Play Area Proposals;
- (A0) DrNo 1027-999 Rev C Infrastructure Appraisal;
- (A1) DrNo SP2102\_2 Rev A Lighting Design Site Roads;
- (A3) DrNo FMW0433-SK10 Milton Hill Signals;
- (A0) DrNo 09001/108 Rev B Proposed highway adoption plan;
- (A0) DrNo 09001/109 Rev B Proposed public open space adoption plan;
- (A0) DrNo 09001/110 Rev B Affordable Housing;
- (A1) DrNo 09001/200 Rev B Street Scenes;
- (A3) DrNo 09001/201 SH17 (BRICK) Plans and elevations;
- (A3) DrNo 09001/202 SH37 (BRICK) Plans and elevations;
- (A3) DrNo 09001/217 rev A H404-5 Elevations;
- (A3) DrNo 09001/218 rev A H404-5 Floor plans;
- (A3) DrNo 09001/219 rev A H406-5 Elevations;
- (A3) DrNo 09001/220 rev A H406-5 Floor plans;

(A3) DrNo 09001/221 rev AH408-5 Elevations;  
 (A3) DrNo 09001/222 H408-5 Floor plans;  
 (A3) DrNo 09001/223 rev A H433-5 (BRICK) Elevations;  
 (A3) DrNo 09001/224 H433-5 (STONE) Elevations;  
 (A3) DrNo 09001/225 rev A H433-5 (RENDER) Elevations;  
 (A3) DrNo 09001/226 H433-5 Floor plans;  
 (DrNo) 09001/227 H469-5 (BRICK) Elevations;  
 (A3) DrNo 09001/228 H469-5 (RENDER) Elevations;  
 (A3) DrNo 09001/229 H469-5 Floor plans;  
 (A3) DrNo 09001/230 rev A H500-5 (BRICK) Elevations;  
 (A3) DrNo 09001/231 H500-5 (STONE) Elevations;  
 (A3) DrNo 09001/232 H500-5 Floor plans;  
 (A3) DrNo 09001/233 H526-5 Elevations 1;  
 (A3) DrNo 09001/234 H526-5 Elevations 2;  
 (A3) DrNo 09001/235 H526-5 Floor plans;  
 (A3) DrNo 09001/236 rev A H577-5 (BRICK) Elevations;  
 (A3) DrNo 09001/237 rev A H577-5 (RENDER) Elevations;  
 (A3) DrNo 09001/238 H577-5 Elevations;  
 (A3) DrNo 09001/239 Garage plans and elevations 1 of 4;  
 (A3) DrNo 09001/240 Garage plans and elevations 2 of 4;  
 (A3) DrNo 09001/241 Garage plans and elevations 3 of 4;  
 (A3) DrNo 09001/242 Garage plans and elevations 4 of 4;  
 Revised Flood Risk Assessment (May2010);  
 Meadfleet maintenance plan (scanned Sept 2011);  
 (A3) DrNo 09001/243 Elevations (brick);  
 (A3) DrNo 09001/245 Floor Plans;  
 (A3) DrNo 09001/246 Elevations (brick);  
 (A3) DrNo 09001/247 Elevations (render);  
 (A3) DrNo 09001/248 Floor Plans;  
 (A3) DrNo 09001/249 Elevations (brick);  
 (A3) DrNo 09001/250 Floor Plans;  
 (A3) DrNo 09001/251 Elevations (render);  
 (A3) DrNo 09001/252 Plans & Elevations (brick);

- (c) Notwithstanding the submitted material details, no development shall take place until details and samples of the proposed materials to be used in the construction of the external surfaces of the development hereby permitted have been submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority. Development shall be carried out and thereafter retained as such, in accordance with the approved details as above, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority;
- (d) The proposed estate roads, footways, footpaths, tactile paving, cycleways, bus stops/bus lay-bys, verges, junctions, street lighting, sewers, drains, retaining walls, service routes, surface water outfall, vehicle overhang margins, embankments, visibility splays, accesses, carriageway gradients, drive gradients, surface water drainage (to prevent discharge from drives and parking directly onto the highway), car parking and street furniture shall be constructed and laid out in accordance with details to be approved by the Local Planning Authority in writing before their construction begins. For this purpose, plans and sections, indicating as appropriate, the design, layout, levels, gradients, materials and method of construction shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority;

- (e) The proposed roads, footpaths and turning spaces where applicable, shall be constructed in such a manner as to ensure that each dwelling before it is occupied shall be served by a properly consolidated and surfaced carriageway and footpath to at least base course level between the dwelling and existing highway unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority;
- (f) No dwelling shall be occupied until that part of the service road which provides access to it has been constructed in accordance with the approved plans;
- (g) No part of the access drive shall be laid out at a gradient steeper than 1 in 10;
- (h) In the interests of sustainable development none of the dwellings hereby permitted shall be occupied until a network of cycleway and footpath connections has been constructed within the development site in accordance with a scheme to be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority;
- (i) No development approved by this permission shall be commenced until a surface water run-off limitation scheme has been submitted to, and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The submitted details shall clarify the overall drainage masterplan, phasing considerations, intended future ownership and maintenance provision for all drainage works serving the site. The approved scheme shall be implemented in accordance with the approved programme and details and thereafter maintained as such;
- (j) Prior to the commencement of works on site a foul and surface water drainage strategy shall be submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority. The drainage scheme shall include arrangements for the points of connection and capacity improvements required to serve the development and the timing for the implementation of the strategy. Prior to the occupation of any of the dwellings hereby permitted the drainage scheme shall be fully implemented in accordance with the approved details unless a variation is first submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority;
- (k) No development shall commence until a scheme for the provision and management of a buffer zone alongside the Allen's Brook watercourse within the site has been submitted to, and agreed in writing by, the Local Planning Authority. Thereafter the development shall be carried out and maintained in accordance with the approved scheme for the lifetime of the development;
- (l) If, during development, contamination not previously identified is found to be present at the site then no further development (unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority) shall be carried out until the developer has submitted, and obtained written approval from the Local Planning Authority for, an amendment to the remediation strategy detailing how this contamination shall be dealt with and thereafter implementation of the approved measures;
- (m) Prior to the commencement of any development works, the applicant shall, examine the premises/land and identify what measures, if any, may be necessary to ensure that noise from existing sources and the proposed road will not be detrimental to the amenity of the occupants of the premises on the completed development.

The applicant shall submit to the Planning Authority all details of any sound reduction scheme recommended and the reasoning upon which any such scheme is based. Such details are to be agreed, in writing, by the Planning Authority prior to the commencement of development works. All works that form part of the scheme shall be completed in accordance with the approved details before the development is occupied and shall thereafter be maintained as such;

- (n) At the commencement of work on site and prior to the occupation of any dwellings hereby permitted the 20 metre buffer of woodland shown on the submitted drawings Bir.3536-07 and Bir.3536-08A shall be planted in full along the southern boundary of the site, south of the route of the new western relief road and shall thereafter be retained as such. The woodland buffer planting, retained hedgerows and the planting along Allen's Brook shall thereafter be maintained in accordance with the Meadfleet General Specifications for Public Open Space and Paved Areas maintenance plan received on 18 July 2011;
- (o) The development hereby permitted shall not be commenced until details of a strategy to protect and enhance the development site for wildlife has been submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority. The strategy shall be based on the advice of Ecology Solutions submitted report, dated June 2010 and include:-
  - Details of protective measures to include method statements to avoid impacts on protected species during all stages of development;
  - Details of the timing of works to avoid periods of work when the species could be harmed by disturbance;
  - Measures for the retention and replacement and enhancement of places of rest for breeding birds and bats;
  - Details of a lighting strategy; and
  - A landscape and ecology management plan.

Once approved the works shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details and timing of the works unless otherwise approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority and thereafter the resting places and agreed accesses shall be permanently maintained. The development shall not be occupied until the scheme for the maintenance and provision of the new bird and bat boxes and related accesses have been fully implemented;

- (p) Prior to the commencement of works on site details of a lighting strategy for the site shall be submitted to, and approved by, the Local Planning Authority. The lighting strategy shall incorporate the following measures:-
  - 1) no night time working during the construction phase of the development in order to prevent light spill of the area;
  - 2) Street lighting to be at 5m in height and shall be directed/designed to avoid light spillage and light pollution;
  - 3) Lighting adjacent to features used by bats as flight corridors and foraging habitat (generally the proposed woodland buffer, hedgerows and Allen's Brook) to be directed away from those areas and no lighting provided in such areas to exceed 0.1 lux and will be;
  - 4) Lights adjacent to or affecting the woodland buffer, hedgerows and



Allen's Brook shall, be LED or if not suitable, highly directional and/or light on demand. It must not be white mercury vapour or high pressure sodium types of lighting.

The lighting strategy shall be fully implemented prior to the occupation of any residential units on site and thereafter maintained in accordance with the lighting strategy unless an alternative is first submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority;

- (q) The area of land within the application red line area and to the south of the buffer planting to the south of the alignment of the Western Relief Road as shown in the Taunton Deane Local Plan shall be managed as permanent pasture with attenuation ponds as shown on plan numbers Bir.3536-07 and Bir.3536-11A and shall be managed in accordance with the general guidelines contained with the submitted Meadfleet General Specifications for Public Open Space and Paved Areas maintenance plan received on 18 July 2011;
- (r) Prior to the commencement of works on site a habitat management plan shall be submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority to ensure that the buffer planting and off-site compensatory woodland planting is managed appropriately for lesser horseshoe bats. The management plan will cover management of the whole site and will include measures to promote the establishment of the buffer and off-site planting, such as thinning and replacement of the 'nurse crop' species (poplar and Norway spruce) with oak and ash to give a more diverse age range. Once approved the management of the site shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details unless otherwise approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority;
- (s) No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The archaeological work shall be carried out at all times in accordance with the agreed scheme or some other scheme that may otherwise be agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority;
- (t)
  - (i) The landscaping/planting scheme shown on the submitted plans Bir.3536-07, Bir.3536-08A; Bir.3536-09A and Bir.3536-11A shall be completely carried out within the first available planting season from the date of commencement of the development.
  - (ii) For a period of five years after the completion of the landscaping scheme, the trees and shrubs shall be protected and maintained in a healthy weed free condition and any trees or shrubs that cease to grow, shall be replaced by trees or shrubs of similar size and species or other appropriate trees or shrubs as may be approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority;
- (u) No occupation of any of the units of accommodation shall occur until a plan indicating the positions, design, materials and type of boundary treatment to be erected adjacent to the boundary of Birds Crest has been submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority. The agreed boundary treatment shall be completed before the development hereby permitted is commenced and thereafter maintained as such, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority;

- (v) The boundary treatment shown on drawing 09001/103B and 104B shall be completed before the dwellings are occupied and thereafter maintained as such, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Notwithstanding the submitted details on plan number 09001/102B, details for the boundary treatment along the eastern boundary of the site adjacent to the rear of Sylvan Way shall be submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority. The approved boundary treatment shall be completed before the dwellings are occupied and thereafter maintained as such, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority;
- (w) Prior to the commencement of works on site a timetable for the provision of Public open space as shown on plan 09001/109 rev A shall be submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority. The Public Open Space shall be provided in strict accordance with that timetable and shall thereafter be maintained at all times for the in accordance with the above plan and submitted Meadfleet Ltd General Specification for public open spaces and paved areas maintenance as scanned on 1 September 2011;
- (x) The Children's Play area and equipment shall be provided on site in accordance with the details supplied on plan number Bir.3536\_10A and available for use prior to the occupation of the 68th dwelling on the site and shall thereafter be maintained as such in a safe and useable condition in accordance with the Meadfleet Ltd General Specification for public open spaces and paved areas maintenance as scanned on 1 September 2011;
- (y) Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 3 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 ('the 1995 Order') (or any order revoking and re-enacting the 1995 Order with or without modification), no windows or dormers shall be inserted into the northern elevation of the dwelling or garage on plot 30 without the further grant of planning permission.

(Notes to applicant:- (1) Applicant was advised that guidance on suitable internal noise levels can be found in British Standard BS8233 1999. This recommends that internal noise levels arising from external sources should not exceed 40 decibels LAeq in all living and bed rooms during the day (0700h to 2300h) and 30 decibels LAeq during the night (2300h) to 0700h). In addition a 45 decibel LMax applies in all bedrooms during the night (2300h to 0700h); (2) Applicant was advised that the condition relating to wildlife requires the submission of information relating to protected species. The Local Planning authority will expect to see a detailed method statement stating clearly how wildlife will be protected through the development process and be provided with a method statement that will maintain favourable status for the species that are affected by the proposal. The condition also requires the submission of a landscape and ecological management plan for the site. It should be noted that the protection afforded to species under the UK and EU legislation is irrespective of the planning system and the developer should ensure that any activity they undertake on the development site (regardless of the need for planning consent) must comply with the appropriate wildlife legislation; (3) Applicant was advised that all new surface water discharges made direct to a watercourse must terminate in a properly constructed outfall for which the separate consent of the Environment Agency may be required. The applicant is advised to check with us as to whether any Flood Defence Consents are required for any detailed proposals. For information, under the terms of the Water Resources Act 1991 and the Land Drainage Byelaws, the prior written

consent of the Environment Agency is required for any proposed works or structures in, under, over or within 8 m of the top of the bank of a designated 'main river'. Any impediment to flow in an 'ordinary' watercourse will also require consent under section 23 of the Land Drainage Act 1991; (4) Applicant was advised that there must be no interruption to the surface water and/or land drainage system of the surrounding land as a result of the operations on the site. Provisions must be made to ensure that all existing drainage systems continue to operate effectively; (5) Applicant was advised that any waste brought into or disposed of off site will be subject to an Environmental Permit or Exemption which must be obtained from the Environment Agency; (6) Applicant was advised that the buffer planting shall be in accordance with the requirements of the Habitats Regulations Assessment. In order to protect the "offset" planting area from light noise or other disturbance no new footpath, cycle or vehicular links should be provided through the buffer. Such links would require planning permission.)

**Reason for planning permission, if granted:-**

The proposal, for residential development, was located on a Taunton Deane Local Plan allocated site where the principle of new housing was considered acceptable. It was considered that the development would not have a detrimental impact upon visual or residential amenity and was therefore considered acceptable. Therefore, the scheme accorded with Taunton Deane Local Plan Policies T8 (Major site allocation); T10 (North of Avinghills Farm); S1 (General Requirements), S2 (Design), and M4 (Residential Parking Provision).

Also **resolved** that in the event that the Section 106 Agreement was not signed within three months from the date of the meeting, the Growth and Development Manager be authorised to refuse planning permission or agree an extension of time within which the agreement should be signed.

**89. Erection of 39 dwellings and associated parking, access and landscaping at Station Farm, Station Road, Bishops Lydeard (06/11/0032)**

Reported this application.

**Resolved** that subject to:-

(A) The applicants entering into a Section 106 Agreement to secure:-

- (i) 8 affordable homes (prior to no more than 20 open market houses being occupied);
- (ii) The transfer of Land to West Somerset Railway for the provision of tourism facilities related to the functions of a Heritage Railway;
- (iii) The provision of a Tourist Information Facility; and
- (iv) A commuted sum of £104,832 to provide off-site children's play facilities or securing alternative provision of 760 square metres of play space to include a LEAP within the vicinity. The definition of 'vicinity' would be

identified on plan to include the wider area of applications set out in the site history. The phasing would require the play facility or commuted sum to be provided prior to the occupation of no more than 75% of the development; and

(B) The resolution of the County Highway Authority's comments in respect of the technical points made in terms of the internal layout,

the Growth and Development Manager be authorised to consider the requirements of the County Highway Authority and determine the application in consultation with the Chairman or Vice-Chairman and if planning permission was granted, the following conditions together with any additional highway conditions which were considered necessary be imposed:-

- (a) The development hereby permitted shall be begun within three years of the date of this permission;
- (b) The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plans listed in schedule CD1092 received 27 September 2011;
- (c) No development shall commence until a surface water drainage scheme for the site, based on sustainable drainage principles and an assessment of the hydrological and hydro geological context of the development, has been submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority. The scheme shall subsequently be implemented in accordance with the approved details prior to the first occupation of the development or as agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.  
The above scheme shall also include full details of the operation and management strategy of the Sustainable Drainage Scheme to be submitted to, and agreed in writing by, the Local Planning Authority. The strategy shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details thereafter;
- (d) Finished floor levels of the development shall be set no lower than 51.8m AOD;
- (e) Prior to their installation, details or samples of the materials to be used in the construction of the external surfaces of the development shall be submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority. Development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details, unless agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority, and retained thereafter;
- (f) (i) Before any part of the permitted development is commenced, a landscaping scheme, which shall include details of the species, siting and numbers to be planted, shall be submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority.  
(ii) The structural planting along the site boundaries shall be retained and supplemented in accordance with the agreed landscaping scheme and shall be maintained in accordance with a maintenance strategy. The aforementioned strategy shall be submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority prior to the commencement of development on site and shall also set out the maintenance and management of the grass verges and landscaped areas held in common (as identified on a plan to be submitted to, and agreed in writing, by the Local Planning Authority).  
(iii) The landscaping scheme shall be completely carried out within the first available planting season from the date of commencement of the development, or as otherwise extended with the agreement in writing of the Local Planning Authority.

- (iv) For a period of five years after the completion of each landscaping scheme, the trees and shrubs shall be protected and maintained in a healthy weed free condition and any trees or shrubs that cease to grow shall be replaced by trees or shrubs of similar size and species, or the appropriate trees or shrubs as may be approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority;
- (g) Before any part of the development hereby permitted is commenced, a scheme of hard landscaping showing the layout of areas with stones, paving, walls, cobbles or other materials shall be submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority. The agreed scheme shall be completely implemented in accordance with a phasing schedule, to be submitted to and agreed in writing, before the development to which that part of the phasing relates is occupied;
- (h) Before development commences (including site clearance and any other preparatory works) a scheme for the protection of trees and hedges to be retained shall be submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority. Such a scheme shall include a plan showing the location of the protective fencing, and shall specify the type of protective fencing. Such fencing shall be erected prior to commencement of any other site operations and shall be maintained and retained for the full duration of works or until such time as agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority. No activities whatsoever shall take place within the protected areas without the prior written agreement of the Local Planning Authority;
- (i) No tree shall be felled, lopped, topped, lifted or disturbed in any way without the prior written consent of the Local Planning Authority;
- (j) No trenching works shall be undertaken within the canopy spread of existing trees unless agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Any trenching works shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details and shall be hand dug with good quality topsoil used to backfill the trench and compacted without using machinery;
- (k) Notwithstanding the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (or any subsequent Order amending or revoking and re-enacting that Order), no garage shall be erected on the site without the further grant of planning permission;
- (k) Notwithstanding the provisions of the Town and Country Planning General
- (l) Permitted Development Order 1995 (or any subsequent order amending or revoking and re-enacting that Order), no gate, fence, wall or other means of enclosure shall be erected on the site beyond the forward most part of the front of the dwelling house(s) or of the exposed flank wall of any corner dwelling without the further grant of planning permission unless indicated on the approved plans;
- (m) Unless otherwise agreed by the Local Planning Authority, development other than that required to be carried out as part of an approved scheme of remediation must not commence until conditions a) to c) below have been complied with. If unexpected contamination is found after development has begun, development must be halted on that part of the site affected by the unexpected contamination to the extent specified by the Local Planning Authority in writing until condition d) has been complied with in relation to that contamination.

a) Site Characterisation - An investigation and risk assessment, must be completed to assess the nature and extent of any contamination on the site,

whether or not it originates on the site. The investigation and risk assessment must be undertaken by competent persons and a written report of the findings must be produced. The written report is subject to the approval in writing of the Local Planning Authority. The report of the findings must include:-

The collection and interpretation of relevant information to form a conceptual model of the site, and a preliminary risk assessment of all the likely pollutant linkages. If the preliminary risk assessment identifies any potentially significant pollutant linkages a ground investigation shall be carried out, to provide further information on the location, type and concentration of contaminants in the soil and groundwater and other characteristics that can influence the behaviour of the contaminants.

An assessment of the potential risks to

- human health,
- property (existing or proposed) including buildings, crops, livestock, pets, woodland and service lines and pipes,
- adjoining land,
- groundwater and surface waters,
- ecological systems,
- archaeological sites and ancient monuments;

This must be conducted in accordance with DEFRA and the Environment Agency's 'Model Procedures for the Management of Land Contamination, CLR 11' and other authoritative guidance.

b) Submission of Remediation Scheme - If any unacceptable risks are identified as a result of the investigation and assessment referred to in a) above, a detailed remediation scheme to bring the site to a condition suitable for the intended use must be prepared. This should detail the works required to remove any unacceptable risks to human health, buildings and other property and the natural and historical environment, and is subject to the approval in writing of the Local Planning Authority. The scheme must include all works to be undertaken, proposed remediation objectives and remediation criteria, timetable of works and site management procedures.

c) Implementation of Approved Remediation Scheme - The approved remediation scheme must be carried out in accordance with its terms prior to the commencement of development other than that required to carry out remediation, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The Local Planning Authority must be given two weeks written notification of commencement of the remediation scheme works.

d) Reporting of Unexpected Contamination - In the event that contamination is found at any time when carrying out the approved development that was not previously identified it must be reported in writing immediately to the Local Planning Authority. An investigation and risk assessment must be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of section a), and where remediation is necessary a remediation scheme must be prepared in accordance with the requirements of section b), which is subject to the approval in writing of the Local Planning Authority.

e) Verification of remedial works - Following completion of measures identified in the approved remediation scheme a verification report (referred to in PPS23 as a validation report) must be produced. The report should demonstrate the effectiveness of the remedial works.

A statement should also be provided by the developer which is signed by some one in a position to confirm that the works detailed in the approved scheme have been carried out (The Local Planning Authority can provide a draft Remediation Certificate when the details of the remediation scheme have been approved at stage b) above).

The verification report and signed statement are subject to the approval in writing of the Local Planning Authority.

f) Long Term Monitoring and Maintenance - If a monitoring and maintenance scheme is required as part of the approved remediation scheme, reports must be prepared and submitted to the Local Planning Authority for approval until the remediation objectives have been achieved.

All works must be conducted in accordance with DEFRA and the Environment Agency's 'Model Procedures for the Management of Land Contamination, CLR 11' and other authoritative guidance;

- (n) Prior to the commencement of the development hereby permitted full details of the proposed access, footways (to include providing a suitable cross over point to the existing northern footway) and visibility splays from the site onto Greenway Road, shall be submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority. The agreed details and visibility splays shall be fully implemented in accordance with the agreed details before any part of the development is occupied and shall thereafter be maintained as such. No further access shall be provided into the site;
- (o) The layout and alignment, widths and levels of the proposed roads, road junctions, and points of access, visibility splays, footways, footpaths, tactile paving, cycleways, bus stops/bus lay-bys, verges, sewers, drains, retaining walls, service routes, surface water outfall, vehicle overhang margins, embankments, carriage gradients, drive gradients, car parking, street furniture and turning spaces shall be provided and laid out in accordance with details that shall first have been submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the agreed details prior to the occupation of any dwelling unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. For this purpose, plans and sections, indicating as appropriate the design, layout, levels, gradients, materials and method of construction shall be submitted and agreed by the Local Planning Authority;
- (p) The area allocated for visitor parking on the submitted plan shall be properly consolidated, surfaced, drained and marked out before the development is occupied, or as agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority, and shall not be used other than for the parking of vehicles;
- (q) Not more than 50% of the open market housing shall be occupied until the following highway works:-

- Improvements to the junction of Greenway Road/Station Road to include yellow lining of the bridge approaches;
- The provision of shuttle traffic signals at the approach to the bridge and footway works over the bridge; and
- The provision of a new roundabout at the junction of Station Road and the A358,

have been constructed in strict accordance with details which shall have been submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority.

- (r) No development shall commence until details of a strategy to protect and enhance the development for wildlife has been submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority. The strategy shall be based on the advice of EAD's Ecological assessment and up to date ecological surveys and include:-

1. Details of protective measures to include method statements to avoid impacts on wildlife during all stage of development;
2. Details of the timing of works to avoid periods of work when wildlife could be harmed by disturbance;
3. Measures for the enhancement of places of rest for breeding birds and bats;
4. Details of a lighting strategy; and
5. A landscape and ecological management plan.

Once agreed, the works shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details and timing of the works, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

The development shall not be occupied until the scheme for the maintenance and provision of the new bird and bat boxes and related accesses have been fully implemented. Thereafter the resting places and agreed accesses shall be permanently maintained;

- (s) Prior to its construction and installation details of the design, colour and materials of the electric substation and sewage pump station shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing by, the Local Planning Authority. The development shall be carried in accordance with the agreed details;
- (t) Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 3, Schedule 2, Part 1, Class A of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 ('the 1995 Order') (or any order revoking and re-enacting the 1995 Order) (with or without modification), no window(s) shall be installed in the side (north) elevation of Plot 15 and side (west) elevation of Plot 10 hereby permitted without the further grant of planning permission.

(Notes to applicant:- Applicant was advised that the principles of a suitable surface water drainage scheme has previously been set out and agreed with the Environment Agency in the Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) submitted with the previous application 06/07/0027. In seeking to discharge the surface water drainage condition, these principles should be transposed into a detailed drainage design and confirmation of maintenance responsibilities provided; (2) Applicant was advised to contact the County Highway Authority at the earliest opportunity to agree the off-site highway works to avoid any subsequent delay in the development process.)

**Reason for planning permission if granted:-**



The proposed development would bring forward tourist related development which would support the long term aspirations of the West Somerset Railway, a key economic tourism and heritage resource within the Borough, in line with Taunton Deane Local Plan Policy EC22 (Land West of Bishops Lydeard Station), and would also deliver a proportion of affordable housing, for which there was an identified need in the Parish. The principle of the development had been established by application 06/07/0027. The revised design, layout and landscaping were considered acceptable as an alternative scheme whilst securing the economic and highway benefits in association with the West Somerset Railway.

Also **resolved** that in the event that the Section 106 Agreement was not signed within three months from the date of the meeting, the Growth and Development Manager be authorised to refuse planning permission or agree an extension of time within which the agreement should be signed.

**90. Breach of Conditions and Unilateral Undertaking (Section 106) at the Old Cider Factory, Norton Fitzwarren (25/06/0020)**

Reported that the above site was a residential development site in the centre of Norton Fitzwarren.

Permission had been granted in 2007 for the redevelopment of the former cider factory to provide 389 dwellings, a village centre, part of the Norton Fitzwarren relief road and employment buildings.

To date, two of the developers, Barratt and Bellway were believed to have constructed 192 dwellings, with 171 understood to be occupied.

In 2008, following the commencement of development, various breach of condition notices were served in respect of the development. Those relevant conditions had since been complied with, insofar as the relevant required information had been submitted.

However, over the last few years, The Council had worked closely with the developers in order to seek to secure delivery of the remaining outstanding matters, in particular:-

- Delivery of the Local Centre;
- Provision of a formalised junction for the estate with the B3227;
- Provision of a pedestrian crossing over the B3227; and
- Various on and off site flood works.

These matters had been outstanding for some time due to various delays in the developer agreeing the required highway works with Somerset County Council as part of a Section 278 (Highways) agreement. It did appear however that the various matters between the parties had now been resolved.

At the present time, there was a breach of the following conditions:-

12 – Provision of children's play facilities;

- 26 – Details of the design and appearance of bridge abutments;
- 32 and 34 – Agreement of design and implementation of on-site flood management works;
- 36 – Submission of a flood management manual;
- 38 – Agreement of details and provision of a flood wall to existing properties on Station Road;
- 40 – Raising of the B3227 (off-site) to reduce the risk of flooding;
- 50 – Submission of an ecological management plan;
- 52 – Provision of a pedestrian crossing over the B3227; and
- 54 – Provision of a trespass resistant fence adjacent to the railway.

It was clearly in the public interest to ensure that the local centre and necessary facilities for the new residents were provided at an early date. It was also clearly in the public interest to ensure that the new development was safe from flooding and had a safe means of access to the public highway.

It was, therefore, recommended that authority be granted to the Solicitor to the Council to institute injunction proceedings in the event that over 50% of the dwellings became occupied before these matters were addressed. It was also recommended that the Solicitor to the Council be authorised to serve enforcement notices in respect of the outstanding highway works and that breach of condition notices were served in respect of the outstanding on site flood-related conditions.

Further recommended that a timetable for delivery of the outstanding works with the developer be agreed with the relevant parties with the Committee's authority to take the necessary action in the event that the timetable was not adhered to.

**Resolved** that in the event that either:-

A: a timetable for the delivery of works agreed between the developer and the Council was not adhered to; or

B: in the event that no agreement over an acceptable timetable for the outstanding works was reached by 14 October 2011:-

(i) The Solicitor to the Council be authorised to serve an Enforcement Notice(s) and take prosecution action in the event that it is not complied with in respect of the following outstanding works:-

- a. The raising of the B3227 to reduce the risk of flooding (required by condition 40);
- b. The provision of a pedestrian crossing over the B3227 (required by condition 52);

(ii) The Solicitor to the Council be authorised to institute injunction proceedings over failure to deliver the local centre in the event that 50% occupations was reached;

(iii) No action be taken at the present time in respect of conditions 12, 36, 50 and 54;

(iv) No further action be taken in respect of conditions 26, 32, 34, 38 or 53.

**91. Appeals**

Reported that three new appeals had been lodged, details of which were submitted. Also reported that one appeal decisions had been received, details of which were also submitted.

(The meeting ended at 8.50 pm)

SUMMERFIELD DEVELOPMENTS (SW)LTD

**RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF 27 AFFORDABLE DWELLINGS WITH ASSOCIATED PARKING AND SITE WORKS FORMING PHASE 1 AT LAND TO THE NORTH OF LADYMEAD COMMUNITY SCHOOL, CHEDDON ROAD, TAUNTON**

Grid Reference: 322935.127195

Full Planning Permission

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**RECOMMENDATION AND REASON(S)**

Recommended Decision: Conditional Approval subject to the satisfactory resolution of the outstanding issues regarding:

- Protected species on site.
- The detailed comments of the Housing Enabling Lead,
- The detailed comments of the County Highways Authority,

and the applicants entering into a legal agreement to secure:

1. An appropriate mix of 100% affordable housing as identified in the report below,
2. Off-site landscaping and planting as identified in the Hestercombe House SAC test of significance,
3. A phasing of works as identified in the Hestercombe House SAC test of significance,
4. Any other outstanding issues that are appropriate and identified in the outstanding consultation responses.

**RECOMMENDED CONDITION(S) (if applicable)**

- . As detailed consultation responses are outstanding at the time of writing, precise wording of planning conditions is still to be agreed. If Members are minded to grant planning permission it would be necessary to condition the following matters:

Time limits for implementation of the development,  
List of approved plans,  
Submission of materials,  
Landscaping and subsequent maintenance,  
Details of an appropriate surface water drainage system,  
Biodiversity mitigation,  
Travel plan,  
Highways conditions,  
External lighting,  
Finished floor levels.  
Boundary treatments

Notes for compliance

## **PROPOSAL**

This application is for full planning permission for the erection of 27 dwellings comprising:

- 8 x two-bedroom, three-person houses.
- 9 x three-bedroom, five-person houses.
- 8 x two-bedroom, three-person apartments.
- 2 x one-bedroom, two-person apartments.

The application forms the first phase of a larger proposed development of 100 dwellings (see application 08/10/0009) on land to the north of Ladymead School and Wellsprings Leisure Centre. Access to the site would be off Cheddon Road with a main spine road running through the site, partly along the line of an existing water main.

The principle of developing this site has been discussed for a number of years and (from a developer perspective) was originally based on the concept of the £60,000 house. Although not completely falling within the PPS3 definition of affordable housing, the proposal is aimed towards providing intermediate housing for non-homeowners. The application proposes:

- 8 x intermediate/social rented houses (2B 3P)
- 9 x discounted open market houses (3B 5P)
- 10 x low cost by design apartments (eight x 2B 3P and two x 1B 2P)

Due to the application site being identified in the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for Hestercombe House SAC, revised landscaping plans and proposals have been submitted to mitigate and offset the loss of habitat for lesser horseshoe bats. This includes a 20m wide landscape buffer around the entire site, off site planting and the creation of a community orchard on land immediately to the north of the site.

## **SITE DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY**

### Site Description

The site is at the northern end of Cheddon Road between Ladymead School and Pyrland Hall Farm. The field rises to the north with a slight shallow in the centre.

A 2 metre high hedgerow separates the site from Cheddon Road and there are three trees on the southern boundary. The site crosses two fields that are spattered by an unnatural boundary (a fence line with no hedge).

The site is outside of the defined development limits for Taunton that have been identified in the Local Plan and emerging Core Strategy.

### Relevant Planning History

The site was previously identified as part of a larger search for developments on the edge of Taunton that could be developed for affordable housing in a similar manner to rural exception proposals.

This application was submitted in conjunction with a larger development of up to 100 dwellings (application 08/10/0009) and both applications have been processed and considered in together as the issues are clearly linked.

## **CONSULTATION AND REPRESENTATION RESPONSES**

### **Consultees**

*SCC - TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT GROUP* – initially had no objection in principle but raised concerns about:

- Transport Statement did not include accident data for the site.
- Need to consult the traffic signals team regarding impact on vehicle movements at the Cheddon Road/Priorswood Road signalled junction.
- No detailed Travel Plan submitted with application.

[An addendum to the submitted Transport Statement to address the above issues has been submitted and the further comments of the County Highway Authority are awaited]

*CHEDDON FITZPAINE PARISH COUNCIL* – object

- Too high density of building homes.
- Not enough parking spaces
- Additional traffic to Ladymead and sports centre onto busy road
- Loss of greenfield site on edge of town
- Loss of green areas around listed buildings of Pyrland Hall and the farm

*WESSEX WATER* – initially identified the need for a 10m easement for the water main that crosses the site (5 metres either side of the water main)

*SCC - ECOLOGY* – initially objected as the proposal did not accord with the habitat Regulations.

### Revised comments on submission of amended plans

The proposal would not have a significant effect on the European site provided that the development site is assessed by the same method as other developments north of the A3259 carried out in the HRA of the Hestercombe House SAC (Somerset County Council, 2009). This methodology has been agreed by Natural England.

### **On Site Mitigation**

- A 20 metre wide buffer of woodland planting for the length of the western and northern edges of the application site. Part of the woodland buffer will be set upon an earth bund which will increase its height and enable earlier functionality to be achieved. A map and details of the planting schedule and layout can be found in Appendix 1.

- Woodland buffers may not be artificially lit. Each of these sites must have street lighting that is directed away from the woodland buffer in order that it is kept dark.
- Any paths through the woodland buffer are constructed at an angle, i.e. not straight through the buffer planting, and without lighting. Any cycleway/footpath must be a maximum of 3 metres wide.
- Street lighting will be set at the minimum height permissible of 5 metres and be directional away from the site boundary. They should not be of the white mercury vapour or high-pressure sodium types. It is recommended that advanced forms of street lighting be used, such as LED, highly directional, and/or light on demand.
- No development on site further to that in Phase 1, as shown on the application plan, will be permitted until the woodland buffer, as shown in Appendix 1, is functional. The criteria for 'functional' has been agreed with Natural England as when 40% of trees have reached a 5.5 metres in height including the height of the earth bund before the commencement of Phase 2 of the development on site, as shown on the application plan.

### Offset Planting

In order to compensate for loss of feeding habitat offset woodland planting is required, as for other sites assessed in the HRA for Hestercombe House SAC. For detail of the methodology see the HRA of the Hestercombe House SAC (Somerset County Council, 2009)

The area required by way offset planting for the development to be permitted is 1.22 hectares. This will be planted as part of Phase 1 of the development.

The offset habitat shall be functional before Phase 3 of the development (or Phase 2 if the development is in two phases), as shown on the application plan, can commence on site. The criteria agreed with Natural England for considering planted woodland habitat to be functional for off site offset habitat creation is:

- Canopy cover of between 75% and 90% (Knight, 2006).
- Diameter at breast height (dbh) of trees on site to meet requirements for habitat conditions for lesser horseshoe bats. [Min. 25dbh to max 40dbh with about 3 metres between understorey and lower branches. (Holzhaider *et al*, 2002)].
- Presence of lesser horseshoe bats recorded (using an Anabat detector) - present in 3 months of the summer period (May to September)

However, it has been agreed that as an alternative to the functionality criteria set out above an increased offset ratio will apply of 4:1. In addition the developer will plant an orchard of 0.32 hectares immediately to the north of the site. Planted trees will be the largest available.

For the purposes of calculation of the amount of offset habitat planting required it is considered that part of Field's 1 and 3 are Combined Area.

It is concluded that there would be no significant effect as a result of granting the planning application on the SAC provided the applicant adheres to the mitigation measures and off set planting set out above.

## *ENVIRONMENT AGENCY – object*

The submitted information shows that surface water drainage will be disposed of to the existing water sewer via a storage tank. Within the submitted FRA, options for SuDs have been discussed and it has been shown that infiltration is not a viable option given the underlying geology. However none of the SuDs considered suitable in Section 5 of the FRA have been proposed in the latest drainage layout. Underground tanks and pipes do nothing to address water quality and have no amenity benefits, they are also difficult to maintain and are therefore much less sustainable than other techniques. PPS25 makes it clear that on a Greenfield site of this scale, opportunities for SuDs should be identified and encouraged.

## *DRAINAGE ENGINEER – comments*

A full drainage strategy should be forwarded for approval before any works commence on site and it should include the following:

5. A detailed design,
6. Details of the proposed maintenance regime of any SUDs system. This should identify the ownership, operational and maintenance agreements for these works over the lifetime of the scheme.
7. A drainage survey showing the agreed point of connection together with condition and capacity checks for the onward drainage system.
8. I note that exploratory tests have been carried out which apparently indicate that disposal of surface water into the underground strata on site may not work. Details of these tests should be forwarded.
9. I note in the FRA (4.4. History of Flooding) a comment is made that TDBC have been contacted and there are no records of flooding in the immediate vicinity. No knowledge of any enquiry is recorded.

It is also noted that in the drainage report (1.2 level 1 Flood Risk assessment) that no correspondence has been exchanged with TDBC

All of the above should be made conditions of any approval and will require this officer's approval before works commence on site.

## *CONSERVATION OFFICERS – no observations*

*LANDSCAPE LEAD* – initial comments raised concerns regarding structural planting issues on outline application and considered landscaping proposal acceptable subject to moving the development away from the southern boundary.

## Revised comments on submission of amended plans

Generally the proposals are acceptable but I would like to see more space (at least 2 metres) from the existing hedgerows to the car parking and more copse planting within the landscape amenity space to the north.

## *HOUSING STANDARDS OFFICER - no observations*

*SCC - CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER* – no comments on application for full planning permission but comments on outline application for 100 dwelling request:



- Financial contribution for primary school education – 20 spaces at £12,257 per space = £245,140

Secondary school education in the area is anticipated to have capacity to accommodate additional demand

*LEISURE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER* - request a contribution of £1100 per dwelling for active outdoor recreation and a contribution of £2,200 for each 2 bed + dwelling should be made towards children's play provision.

*NATURE CONSERVATION & RESERVES OFFICERS* – initially requested further survey work prior to determination and that TDBC carry out a Test of Significance to determine if the development will have any adverse affects on the Hestercombe SAC.

#### Revised comments on submission of amended plans and Greater Crested Newt Survey

Further to comments made previously on these applications and comments made at the meeting held in April 2011, I have the following observations on the Great crested Newt survey submitted by Devon Wildlife Consultants in June 2011.

The GCN survey was undertaken in June 2011 by Devon Wildlife Consultants because the extended Phase 1 habitat Survey (2009) identified suitable habitat for GCN (species rich hedgerows, areas of grassland and a number of ponds to the west of the site). SERC identified three records of GCN including one from the nearby Ladymead School.

The surveyor checked all six ponds within a 300m radius of the site .At the time of initial survey three of the ponds were dry so survey effort was focussed on the remaining three ponds. .

The survey recorded nine individual GCN indicating a **good population** of GCN. There is also a good population of smooth newts present.

These two populations of amphibians are breeding within three ponds that lie a minimum of 150 m NW and W of the site. In addition the proposal site is surrounded by habitat that is considered suitable for hibernating and foraging GCN with good habitat linkages.

As the development involves the loss of improved grassland and the loss of hedge bank adjacent to Cheddon Road, an offence would be committed under the Habitat Regs and so I agree with the surveyor that an EPS licence will be required to carry out the development.

Generally I support recommendations made in the report to minimise harm to GCN, and compensate for loss of habitat but consider that more detail is required. This is necessary to assure the LPA that favourable conservation status can be achieved for GCNs.

The location of the receptor site for GCN needs to be agreed prior to determination as does the location of the new pond(s). Consideration should be given to the creation of several GCN hibernacula on site

I welcome the revised layout plan (07.64.35A) showing the 20 m buffer zone around the development and 0.32 ha of community orchard but consider that southern boundary hedge should be reinforced to improve corridors for GCNs.

I agree with the surveyor that consideration should be given to translocation of the hedge along Cheddon Road to provide continued availability of habitat for GCN as well as dormice.

Mitigation and habitat enhancement should be carried out prior to the commencement of any development.

I welcome the results of the dormouse survey which is also required prior to the determination of these applications .

*NATURAL ENGLAND* – initially raised concerns and stated that as the proposal will impact upon Hestercombe House SAC a site that has been adopted by the European Commission and formally designated by the British government, NE advises that as a competent authority for this proposal Taunton Deane Borough Council must carry out a Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) before this application is determined.

#### Revised comments on submission of amended plans

Natural England fully support the comments made by Barbara Collier, Taunton Deane Borough Council's Conservation Officer in her response dated 15 Feb 2011.

*HOUSING ENABLING LEAD* – initially stated that supports this application for all affordable housing on the grounds of need in the area. This initial phase of 27 homes will help to ease the demand for affordable housing in the area

[Further comments on specific housing mix and discounts are currently awaited. These will be updated at the Planning Committee]

*SOMERSET WILDLIFE TRUST* – initially objected to the application on the grounds of potential loss of biodiversity and impacts to protected species. Insufficient information has been presented to the local planning authority to enable them to comply with their statutory duties toward biodiversity, and in particular their responsibility to maintain the favourable conservation status and distribution of European protected species. The Trust is not convinced from the submission provided that this application would result in anything other than a net loss to local biodiversity, running contrary to the requirements for a biodiversity gain as laid out in Planning Policy Statement 9 – Biodiversity and Geological Conservation.

*QUANTOCK HILLS AONB SERVICE* – Wish to see significant tree planting on the developments northern and western edges. [comments made prior to submission of revised landscaping plans to provide a 20m buffer on the northern and western edges]

## **Representations**

1 letter of representation received that states:

- Great Crested Newts have been seen in the garden of a nearby property (photographic evidence submitted).

## **PLANNING POLICIES**

PPS 1 SUPP - Planning and Climate Change,  
PPS1 - Delivering Sustainable Development,  
PPS3 - Housing,  
S1 - TDBCLP - General Requirements,  
S2 - TDBCLP - Design,  
S7 - TDBCLP - Outside Settlement,  
M4 - TDBCLP - Residential Parking Provision,  
M5 - TDBCLP - Cycling,  
C1 - TDBCLP - Education Provision for New Housing,  
C4 - TDBCLP - Standards of Provision of Recreational Open Space,  
EN6 - TDBCLP - Protection of Trees, Woodlands, Orchards & Hedgerows,  
EN12 - TDBCLP - Landscape Character Areas,  
PPS9 - Biodiversity and Geological Conservation,

## **DETERMINING ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS**

### Principle of Development

The site is adjacent to, but outside of, the settlement limits for Taunton as defined in the adopted Local Plan. The application is therefore considered to be a departure and an assessment needs to be made as to whether other material considerations warrant a deviation from the Local Plan.

The proposal is for 100% affordable housing but rural exceptions policy H11 does not apply as that policy relates to sites on the edge of villages and rural centres rather than Taunton or Wellington.

However, it is considered that the principles of allowing a departure from the local plan (in order to provide a specialist proposal that caters for an important and identified need of affordable housing) can be acceptable. A residential development such as this would be in close proximity to services and public transport so occupants would not be wholly reliant on the private motor car.

### Affordable Housing Provision

Although the form and tenure of all the proposed housing does not meet the specific definitions of intermediate housing in PPS3, the proposal does cater for a specific need of properties.

In order to qualify to purchase one of the low cost by design properties, it will be necessary for the buyer to be registered with Homebuy (to confirm that they are not already a home owner). The low cost by design properties will have a market set price that will fluctuate with the market. In the case of the detailed planning application for 27 properties, 10 of these will be apartments and the developer suggests that a 1-bed apartment would be in the region of £70k and a 2-bed property be in the region of £90k. It is considered that this type of accommodation could

address the needs of those who have access to a deposit and mortgage, but cannot currently afford higher value housing.

Discounted open market housing is a normal type of intermediate housing that is commonly proposed as part of an affordable housing development. The Housing Enabling Lead is awaiting further details from the developer to so that the discount to be applied can be agreed. The developer has proposed a 20% discount and considers that a 3-bed house that would normally cost around £155k could be available to buy at £124k (subject to eligibility). The detailed application for 27 properties includes 9 discounted open market properties.

The remainder of the houses are proposed to be either intermediate rent or social rent. The further comments of the Housing Enabling Lead are awaited on this part of the proposal and will be updated at the planning committee. All of these properties will need to be built to code level 3 and the developer anticipates that these will go to a Registered Provider.

Overall, it is considered that this could be an appropriate mix on the detailed application for 27 houses, although there is a higher proportion of low cost by design apartments currently proposed on the larger outline scheme for phases 2 and 3. The developer has suggested that this mix may change on the later phases to provide more houses and less apartments to reflect the current market situation. This could be reviewed at a later date but prior to delivery.

#### Impact on Hestercombe House SAC (lesser horseshoe bats)

This is site TA6 in the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for Hestercombe House SAC completed for Taunton Deane in September 2009. The HRA sets out the requirements for the site in order that it complies with the Habitats Regulations (now the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010).

Natural England require that development sites north of Taunton undergo a project level Habitats Regulations Assessment, i.e. a 'test of significance, by Taunton Deane as the 'competent authority' be carried out. For the application to receive planning permission it must be concluded that there will be no adverse impacts on the conservation objectives of a Natura 2000 sites, in this case Hestercombe House SAC.

A draft test of significance has been drawn up in conjunction with the County Council Ecologist and the mitigation requirements and offset planting is set out in the consultation responses section of this report. Prior to any grant of planning permission, this will need to be signed off.

The mitigation proposals include:

- A 20 metre wide buffer of woodland planting for the length of the western and northern edges of the application site. Part of the woodland buffer will be set upon an earth bund which will increase its height and enable earlier functionality to be achieved.
- No development on site further to that in Phase 1 will be permitted until the woodland buffer (above) is functional. The criteria for 'functional' has been agreed with Natural England as when 40% of trees have reached a 5.5 metres in height including the height of the earth bund before the

commencement of Phase 2 of the development on site, as shown on the application plan.

- Offset planting an area of 1.22 hectares as part of Phase 1 on other land in the control of the National Trust (full details to be agreed) and no development of Phase 3 shall be carried out until the planting is functional
- However, it has been agreed that as an alternative to the functionality criteria an increased offset ratio will apply of 4:1 . In addition the developer will plant an orchard of 0.32 hectares immediately to the north of the site. Planted trees will be the largest available

Given these mitigation proposals it is considered that that there would be no significant effect as a result of granting the planning application on the SAC provided the applicant adheres to the mitigation measures and off set planting

#### On-site Ecology (Greater Crested Newts and Dormice) .

Greater Crested Newts (GCN) have been found on the site and the survey report recommends habitat creation and relocation. The Councils Nature Conservation and Reserves Officer considers that the location of the receptor site for GCN needs to be agreed prior to determination as does the location of the new pond(s). The details of this are awaited and upon receipt, further consultation will take place.

If the detailed protection and mitigation proposals are considered to be acceptable a European Protected Species License will be required. The Council will need to make an assessment of the favourable conservation status of GCN in the locality and whether or not Natural England would grant a license.

It will be necessary to carry out the required derogation tests prior to the grant of planning consent.

Survey work for Dormice has been carried out during the summer months of 2011 and an interim report concluded that site visits carried out during July and August found no dormice or their signs within the hedgerows that were subject to survey. However, the survey is not yet complete and the presence or absence of dormouse cannot be confirmed until the final visit is undertaken during November 2011.

It is recommended by your officers that the resolution for this application should be subject to the receipt of the final survey report and responses from specialist consultees. Should dormice be confirmed as absent when the survey is complete, no specific mitigation for dormice will be required. If dormice are found to be present then special mitigation or amendments may be required and as such, the application may need to be reported back to the planning committee for further consideration.

#### Drainage

The Council's Drainage Engineer has considered the proposed plans and concludes that provided a detailed drainage scheme is provided prior to work starting on site then there are no objections.

The Environment Agency have raised concerns about the development of a Greenfield site and that SuDs systems (other than underground storage tanks) have not been fully considered. The Developer is currently in negotiations with the EA in order to resolve this issue however it is consider by the case officer that on site

surface water attenuation would significantly reduce the net developable area of land resulting in lesser provision of affordable housing.

It is not possible to extend the site due to the requirements of the 'test of significance' to mitigate the impact on Hestercombe House SAC and land to the north and west of the site is on higher ground so off-site surface water storage would appear to be not achievable.

It is therefore considered that underground storage is likely to be the best solution for surface water drainage.

### Highways

The County Highways Authority have no objection in principle to the development and are currently considering an addendum to the submitted Transport Statement. Subject to their detailed response (expected prior to the Planning Committee meeting) the proposals are considered acceptable in highways terms.

Careful consideration of the submission of an appropriate Travel Plan is required. As a site that is not in an unsustainable location, but is 2km from Taunton town centre, it is necessary to require a series of measures to promote and encourage more sustainable travel choices. The Transport Statement proposes:

- Appointment of a Travel Plan Co-ordinator;
- Restricted car parking provision;
- High levels of secure cycle parking provision;
- A Welcome Pack including details of local walking, cycle and public transport routes;
- Regular leaflet drops to advise of any changes in the above; and
- Promotion of the Council's County wide car share scheme.

The further views of the Highway Authority will be updated at the committee meeting.

### Design and Landscaping

The detailed design for 27 houses has been submitted with the full planning application. This includes terraced blocks of two-storey housing and a single apartment block containing 10 units that is also two storeys high.

An indicative layout for the remaining phases of development has been submitted with the outline application that shows three-storey blocks of 15 apartments on the southern part of the site and two-storey houses to the north.

The designs are considered to be appropriate for the location and the layout includes an efficient use of land that enables a development that can be affordable by design.

A 20 metre wide landscape bund is proposed to the north and west of the site to avoid light spillage and mitigate the impact on the Hestercombe House SAC. This also will provide an extremely effective screen around the development and a much improved edge between the built up area and surrounding landscape.

The provision of a community orchard to the north will further improve and mitigate against the impact of the development.

### Education, Leisure and Recreation Contributions

Requests for appropriate contributions to the Education Authority and Community Services would amount to just over £5,000 per property and the developer suggests that this would make the proposal unviable. Evidence has been submitted through a viability assessment and this has been considered by the case officer.

It is agreed that if these contributions were sought then the price that a purchaser would have to pay for each of the affordable houses would increase by the same amount. It is considered that this could start to take some of the properties outside of the realms of affordability and not cater for the specific needs that the application is designed to address.

It is therefore recommended that due to the very special circumstances of this proposal and the submitted viability assessment that contributions are not sought.

### Conclusion

It is considered that a specialist scheme to accommodate non-homeowners who are in housing need is sufficient justification to allow a departure from the Local Plan. Provided that all outstanding issues identified above are resolved, it is concluded that planning permission should be granted.

**In preparing this report the Planning Officer has considered fully the implications and requirements of the Human Rights Act 1988.**

**CONTACT OFFICER: Mr B Kitching Tel: 01823 358695**

SUMMERFIELD DEVELOPMENTS (SW)LTD

**OUTLINE APPLICATION FOR A RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF 100 AFFORDABLE DWELLINGS WITH ASSOCIATED SITE WORKS ON LAND NORTH OF LADYMEAD COMMUNITY SCHOOL, CHEDDON ROAD, TAUNTON**

Grid Reference: 322935.127195

Outline Planning Permission

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**RECOMMENDATION AND REASON(S)**

Recommended Decision: Conditional Approval subject to the satisfactory resolution of the outstanding issues regarding:

- Protected species on site.
- The detailed comments of the Housing Enabling Lead,
- The detailed comments of the County Highways Authority,

and the applicants entering into a legal agreement to secure:

1. An appropriate mix of 100% affordable housing as identified in the report below,
2. Off-site landscaping and planting as identified in the Hestercombe House SAC test of significance,
3. A phasing of works as identified in the Hestercombe House SAC test of significance,
4. Any other outstanding issues that are appropriate and identified in the outstanding consultation responses.

**RECOMMENDED CONDITION(S) (if applicable)**

- . As detailed consultation responses are outstanding at the time of writing, precise wording of planning conditions is still to be agreed. If Members are minded to grant planning permission it would be necessary to condition the following matters:

Time limits for implementation of the development,  
List of approved plans,  
Submission of materials,  
Landscaping and subsequent maintenance,  
Details of an appropriate surface water drainage system,  
Biodiversity mitigation,  
Travel plan,  
Highways conditions,  
External lighting,  
Finished floor levels.  
Boundary treatments



Notes for compliance

## **PROPOSAL**

This application is for outline planning permission for the erection of 100 dwellings comprising:

- 8 x two-bedroom, three-person houses.
- 22 x three-bedroom, five-person houses.
- 44 x two-bedroom, three-person apartments.
- 20 x one-bedroom, two-person apartments.
- 6 x one-bedroom, one-person apartments

The application is the larger proposed development of 100 dwellings and includes the 27 dwellings submitted as application 08/10/0008. The proposal is on land to the north of Ladymead School and Wellsprings Leisure Centre. Access to the site would be off Cheddon Road with a main spine road running through the site, partly along the line of an existing water main.

The principle of developing this site has been discussed for a number of years and (from a developer perspective) was originally based on the concept of the £60,000 house. Although not completely falling within the PPS3 definition of affordable housing, the proposal is aimed towards providing intermediate housing for non-homeowners. The detailed application for 27 proposes:

- 8 x intermediate/social rented houses (2B 3P)
- 9 x discounted open market houses (3B 5P)
- 10 x low cost by design apartments (eight x 2B 3P and two x 1B 2P)

The exact mix and tenure types for phases 2 and 3 that form part of the outline application is not known at present but would need to be resolved should planning permission be granted.

Due to the application site being identified in the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for Hestercombe House SAC, revised landscaping plans and proposals have been submitted to mitigate and offset the loss of habitat for lesser horseshoe bats. This includes a 20m wide landscape buffer around the entire site, off site planting and the creation of a community orchard on land immediately to the north of the site.

## **SITE DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY**

### Site Description

The site is at the northern end of Cheddon Road between Ladymead School and Pyrland Hall Farm. The field rises to the north with a slight shallow in the centre.

A 2 metre high hedgerow separates the site from Cheddon Road and there are three trees on the southern boundary. The site crosses two fields that are spattered by an unnatural boundary (a fence line with no hedge).

The site is outside of the defined development limits for Taunton that have been

identified in the Local Plan and emerging Core Strategy.

### Relevant Planning History

The site was previously identified as part of a larger search for developments on the edge of Taunton that could be developed for affordable housing in a similar manner to rural exception proposals.

This application was submitted in conjunction with a detailed development of 27 dwellings (application 08/10/0008) and both applications have been processed and considered in together as the issues are clearly linked.

## **CONSULTATION AND REPRESENTATION RESPONSES**

### **Consultees**

*SCC - TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT GROUP* – initially had no objection in principle but raised concerns about:

- Transport Statement did not include accident data for the site.
- Need to consult the traffic signals team regarding impact on vehicle movements at the Cheddon Road/Priorswood Road signalled junction.
- No detailed Travel Plan submitted with application.

[An addendum to the submitted Transport Statement to address the above issues has been submitted and the further comments of the County Highway Authority are awaited]

*CHEDDON FITZPAINE PARISH COUNCIL* – object

- Too high density of building homes.
- Not enough parking spaces
- Additional traffic to Ladymead and sports centre onto busy road
- Loss of greenfield site on edge of town
- Loss of green areas around listed buildings of Pyrland Hall and the farm

*WESSEX WATER* – initially identified the need for a 10m easement for the water main that crosses the site (5 metres either side of the water main)

*SCC - ECOLOGY* – initially objected as the proposal did not accord with the habitat Regulations.

### Revised comments on submission of amended plans

The proposal would not have a significant effect on the European site provided that the development site is assessed by the same method as other developments north of the A3259 carried out in the HRA of the Hestercombe House SAC (Somerset County Council, 2009). This methodology has been agreed by Natural England.

### **On Site Mitigation**

- A 20 metre wide buffer of woodland planting for the length of the western and northern edges of the application site. Part of the woodland buffer will be set

upon an earth bund which will increase its height and enable earlier functionality to be achieved. A map and details of the planting schedule and layout can be found in Appendix 1.

- Woodland buffers may not be artificially lit. Each of these sites must have street lighting that is directed away from the woodland buffer in order that it is kept dark.
- Any paths through the woodland buffer are constructed at an angle, i.e. not straight through the buffer planting, and without lighting. Any cycleway/footpath must be a maximum of 3 metres wide.
- Street lighting will be set at the minimum height permissible of 5 metres and be directional away from the site boundary. They should not be of the white mercury vapour or high-pressure sodium types. It is recommended that advanced forms of street lighting be used, such as LED, highly directional, and/or light on demand.
- No development on site further to that in Phase 1, as shown on the application plan, will be permitted until the woodland buffer, as shown in Appendix 1, is functional. The criteria for 'functional' has been agreed with Natural England as when 40% of trees have reached a 5.5 metres in height including the height of the earth bund before the commencement of Phase 2 of the development on site, as shown on the application plan.

### Offset Planting

In order to compensate for loss of feeding habitat offset woodland planting is required, as for other sites assessed in the HRA for Hestercombe House SAC. For detail of the methodology see the HRA of the Hestercombe House SAC (Somerset County Council, 2009)

The area required by way offset planting for the development to be permitted is 1.22 hectares. This will be planted as part of Phase 1 of the development.

The offset habitat shall be functional before Phase 3 of the development (or Phase 2 if the development is in two phases), as shown on the application plan, can commence on site. The criteria agreed with Natural England for considering planted woodland habitat to be functional for off site offset habitat creation is:

- Canopy cover of between 75% and 90% (Knight, 2006).
- Diameter at breast height (dbh) of trees on site to meet requirements for habitat conditions for lesser horseshoe bats. [Min. 25dbh to max 40dbh with about 3 metres between understorey and lower branches. (Holzhaidner *et al*, 2002)].
- Presence of lesser horseshoe bats recorded (using an Anabat detector) - present in 3 months of the summer period (May to September)

However, it has been agreed that as an alternative to the functionality criteria set out above an increased offset ratio will apply of 4:1. In addition the developer will plant an orchard of 0.32 hectares immediately to the north of the site. Planted trees will be the largest available.

For the purposes of calculation of the amount of offset habitat planting required it is considered that part of Field's 1 and 3 are Combined Area.

It is concluded that there would be no significant effect as a result of granting the

planning application on the SAC provided the applicant adheres to the mitigation measures and off set planting set out above.

#### *ENVIRONMENT AGENCY – object*

The submitted information shows that surface water drainage will be disposed of to the existing water sewer via a storage tank . Within the submitted FRA, options for SuDs have been discussed and it has been shown that infiltration is not a viable option given the underlying geology. However none of the SuDs considered suitable in Section 5 of the FRA have been proposed in the latest drainage layout. Underground tanks and pipes do nothing to address water quality and have no amenity benefits, there are also difficult to maintain and are therefore much less sustainable than other techniques. PPS25 makes it clear that on a Greenfield site of this scale, opportunities for SuDs should be identified and encouraged.

#### *DRAINAGE ENGINEER – comments*

A full drainage strategy should be forwarded for approval before any works commence on site and it should include the following:

5. A detailed design,
6. Details of the proposed maintenance regime of any SUDs system. This should identify the ownership, operational and maintenance agreements for these works over the lifetime of the scheme.
7. A drainage survey showing the agreed point of connection together with condition and capacity checks for the onward drainage system.
8. I note that exploratory tests have been carried out which apparently indicate that disposal of surface water into the underground strata on site may not work. Details of these tests should be forwarded.
9. I note in the FRA (4.4. History of Flooding) a comment is made that TDBC have been contacted and there are no records of flooding in the immediate vicinity. No knowledge of any enquiry is recorded.

It is also noted that in the drainage report (1.2 level 1 Flood Risk assessment) that no correspondence has been exchanged with TDBC

All of the above should be made conditions of any approval and will require this officers approval before works commence on site.

#### *CONSERVATION OFFICERS – no observations*

*LANDSCAPE LEAD* – initial comments raised concerns regarding structural planting issues on outline application and considered landscaping proposal are acceptable subject to moving the development away from the southern boundary.

#### Revised comments on submission of amended plans

Generally the proposals are acceptable but I would like to see more space (at least 2 metres) from the existing hedgerows to the car parking and more copse planting within the landscape amenity space to the north.

#### *HOUSING STANDARDS OFFICER - no observations*

SCC - *CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER* – no comments on application for full planning permission but comments on outline application for 100 dwelling request:

- Financial contribution for primary school education – 20 spaces at £12,257 per space = £245,140

Secondary school education in the area is anticipated to have capacity to accommodate additional demand

*LEISURE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER* - request a contribution of £1100 per dwelling for active outdoor recreation and a contribution of £2,200 for each 2 bed + dwelling should be made towards children's play provision.

*NATURE CONSERVATION & RESERVES OFFICERS* – initially requested further survey work prior to determination and that TDBC carry out a Test of Significance to determine if the development will have any adverse affects on the Hestercombe SAC.

#### Revised comments on submission of amended plans and Greater Crested Newt Survey

Further to comments made previously on these applications and comments made at the meeting held in April 2011, I have the following observations on the Great crested Newt survey submitted by Devon Wildlife Consultants in June 2011.

The GCN survey was undertaken in June 2011 by Devon Wildlife Consultants because the extended Phase 1 habitat Survey (2009) identified suitable habitat for GCN (species rich hedgerows, areas of grassland and a number of ponds to the west of the site). SERC identified three records of GCN including one from the nearby Ladymead School.

The surveyor checked all six ponds within a 300m radius of the site .At the time of initial survey three of the ponds were dry so survey effort was focussed on the remaining three ponds. .

The survey recorded nine individual GCN indicating a **good population** of GCN. There is also a good population of smooth newts present.

These two populations of amphibians are breeding within three ponds that lie a minimum of 150 m NW and W of the site. In addition the proposal site is surrounded by habitat that is considered suitable for hibernating and foraging GCN with good habitat linkages.

As the development involves the loss of improved grassland and the loss of hedge bank adjacent to Cheddon Road, an offence would be committed under the Habitat Regs and so I agree with the surveyor that an EPS licence will be required to carry out the development.

Generally I support recommendations made in the report to minimise harm to GCN, and compensate for loss of habitat but consider that more detail is required. This is necessary to assure the LPA that favourable conservation status can be achieved for GCNs.

The location of the receptor site for GCN needs to be agreed prior to determination as does the location of the new pond(s). Consideration should be given to the creation of several GCN hibernacula on site

I welcome the revised layout plan (07.64.35A) showing the 20 m buffer zone around the development and 0.32 ha of community orchard but consider that southern boundary hedge should be reinforced to improve corridors for GCNs.

I agree with the surveyor that consideration should be given to translocation of the hedge along Cheddon Road to provide continued availability of habitat for GCN as well as dormice.

Mitigation and habitat enhancement should be carried out prior to the commencement of any development.

I welcome the results of the dormouse survey which is also required prior to the determination of these applications .

*NATURAL ENGLAND* – initially raised concerns and stated that as the proposal will impact upon Hestercombe House SAC a site that has been adopted by the European Commission and formally designated by the British government, NE advises that as a competent authority for this proposal Taunton Deane Borough Council must carry out a Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) before this application is determined.

#### Revised comments on submission of amended plans

Natural England fully support the comments made by Barbara Collier, Taunton Deane Borough Council's Conservation Officer in her response dated 15 Feb 2011.

*HOUSING ENABLING LEAD* – initially stated that supports this application for all affordable housing on the grounds of need in the area. This initial phase of 27 homes will help to ease the demand for affordable housing in the area

[Further comments on specific housing mix and discounts are currently awaited. These will be updated at the Planning Committee]

*SOMERSET WILDLIFE TRUST* – initially objected to the application on the grounds of potential loss of biodiversity and impacts to protected species. Insufficient information has been presented to the local planning authority to enable them to comply with their statutory duties toward biodiversity, and in particular their responsibility to maintain the favourable conservation status and distribution of European protected species. The Trust is not convinced from the submission provided that this application would result in anything other than a net loss to local biodiversity, running contrary to the requirements for a biodiversity gain as laid out in Planning Policy Statement 9 – Biodiversity and Geological Conservation.

*QUANTOCK HILLS AONB SERVICE* – Wish to see significant tree planting on the developments northern and western edges. [comments made prior to submission of revised landscaping plans to provide a 20m buffer on the northern and western edges]

## **Representations**

1 letter of representation received that states:

- Great Crested Newts have been seen in the garden of a nearby property (photographic evidence submitted).

## **PLANNING POLICIES**

PPS 1 SUPP - Planning and Climate Change,  
PPS1 - Delivering Sustainable Development,  
PPS3 - Housing,  
S1 - TDBCLP - General Requirements,  
S2 - TDBCLP - Design,  
S7 - TDBCLP - Outside Settlement,  
M4 - TDBCLP - Residential Parking Provision,  
M5 - TDBCLP - Cycling,  
C1 - TDBCLP - Education Provision for New Housing,  
C4 - TDBCLP - Standards of Provision of Recreational Open Space,  
EN6 - TDBCLP -Protection of Trees, Woodlands, Orchards & Hedgerows,  
EN12 - TDBCLP - Landscape Character Areas,  
PPS9 - Biodiversity and Geological Conservation,

## **DETERMINING ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS**

### Principle of Development

The site is adjacent to, but outside of, the settlement limits for Taunton as defined in the adopted Local Plan. The application is therefore considered to be a departure and an assessment needs to be made as to whether other material considerations warrant a deviation from the Local Plan.

The proposal is for 100% affordable housing but rural exceptions policy H11 does not apply as that policy relates to sites on the edge of villages and rural centres rather than Taunton or Wellington.

However, it is considered that the principles of allowing a departure from the local plan (in order to provide a specialist proposal that caters for an important and identified need of affordable housing) can be acceptable. A residential development such as this would be in close proximity to services and public transport so occupants would not be wholly reliant on the private motor car.

### Affordable Housing Provision

Although the form and tenure of all the proposed housing does not meet the specific definitions of intermediate housing in PPS3, the proposal does cater for a specific need of properties.

In order to qualify to purchase one of the low cost by design properties, it will be necessary for the buyer to be registered with Homebuy (to confirm that they are not already a home owner). The low cost by design properties will have a market set price that will fluctuate with the market. In the case of the detailed planning

application for 27 properties, 10 of these will be apartments and the developer suggests that a 1-bed apartment would be in the region of £70k and a 2-bed property be in the region of £90k. It is considered that this type of accommodation could address the needs of those who have access to a deposit and mortgage, but cannot currently afford higher value housing.

Discounted open market housing is a normal type of intermediate housing that is commonly proposed as part of an affordable housing development. The Housing Enabling Lead is awaiting further details from the developer so that the discount to be applied can be agreed. The developer has proposed a 20% discount and considers that a 3-bed house that would normally cost around £155k could be available to buy at £124k (subject to eligibility). The detailed application for 27 properties includes 9 discounted open market properties.

The remainder of the houses are proposed to be either intermediate rent or social rent. The further comments of the Housing Enabling Lead are awaited on this part of the proposal and will be updated at the planning committee. All of these properties will need to be built to code level 3 and the developer anticipates that these will go to a Registered Provider.

Overall, it is considered that this could be an appropriate mix on the detailed application for 27 houses, although there is a higher proportion of low cost by design apartments currently proposed on the larger outline scheme for phases 2 and 3. The developer has suggested that this mix may change on the later phases to provide more houses and less apartments to reflect the current market situation. This could be reviewed at a later date but prior to delivery.

#### Impact on Hestercombe House SAC (lesser horseshoe bats)

This is site TA6 in the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for Hestercombe House SAC completed for Taunton Deane in September 2009. The HRA sets out the requirements for the site in order that it complies with the Habitats Regulations (now the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010).

Natural England require that development sites north of Taunton undergo a project level Habitats Regulations Assessment, i.e. a 'test of significance, by Taunton Deane as the 'competent authority' be carried out. For the application to receive planning permission it must be concluded that there will be no adverse impacts on the conservation objectives of a Natura 2000 sites, in this case Hestercombe House SAC.

A draft test of significance has been drawn up in conjunction with the County Council Ecologist and the mitigation requirements and offset planting is set out in the consultation responses section of this report. Prior to any grant of planning permission, this will need to be signed off.

The mitigation proposals include:

- A 20 metre wide buffer of woodland planting for the length of the western and northern edges of the application site. Part of the woodland buffer will be set upon an earth bund which will increase its height and enable earlier functionality to be achieved.
- No development on site further to that in Phase 1 will be permitted until the



woodland buffer (above) is functional. The criteria for 'functional' has been agreed with Natural England as when 40% of trees have reached a 5.5 metres in height including the height of the earth bund before the commencement of Phase 2 of the development on site, as shown on the application plan.

- Offset planting an area of 1.22 hectares as part of Phase 1 on other land in the control of the National Trust (full details to be agreed) and no development of Phase 3 shall be carried out until the planting is functional
- However, it has been agreed that as an alternative to the functionality criteria an increased offset ratio will apply of 4:1 . In addition the developer will plant an orchard of 0.32 hectares immediately to the north of the site. Planted trees will be the largest available

Given these mitigation proposals it is considered that that there would be no significant effect as a result of granting the planning application on the SAC provided the applicant adheres to the mitigation measures and off set planting

#### On-site Ecology (Greater Crested Newts and Dormice) .

Greater Crested Newts (GCN) have been found on the site and the survey report recommends habitat creation and relocation. The Councils Nature Conservation and Reserves Officer considers that the location of the receptor site for GCN needs to be agreed prior to determination as does the location of the new pond(s). The details of this are awaited and upon receipt, further consultation will take place.

If the detailed protection and mitigation proposals are considered to be acceptable a European Protected Species License will be required. The Council will need to make an assessment of the favourable conservation status of GCN in the locality and whether or not Natural England would grant a license.

It will be necessary to carry out the required derogation tests prior to the grant of planning consent.

Survey work for Dormice has been carried out during the summer months of 2011 and an interim report concluded that site visits carried out during July and August found no dormice or their signs within the hedgerows that were subject to survey. However, the survey is not yet complete and the presence or absence of dormouse cannot be confirmed until the final visit is undertaken during November 2011.

It is recommended by your officers that the resolution for this application should be subject to the receipt of the final survey report and responses from specialist consultees. Should dormice be confirmed as absent when the survey is complete, no specific mitigation for dormice will be required. If dormice are found to be present then special mitigation or amendments may be required and as such, the application may need to be reported back to the planning committee for further consideration.

#### Drainage

The Council's Drainage Engineer has considered the proposed plans and concludes that provided a detailed drainage scheme is provided prior to work starting on site then there are no objections.

The Environment Agency have raised concerns about the development of a

Greenfield site and that SuDs systems (other than underground storage tanks) have not been fully considered. The Developer is currently in negotiations with the EA in order to resolve this issue however it is considered by the case officer that on site surface water attenuation would significantly reduce the net developable area of land resulting in lesser provision of affordable housing.

It is not possible to extend the site due to the requirements of the 'test of significance' to mitigate the impact on Hestercombe House SAC and land to the north and west of the site is on higher ground so off-site surface water storage would appear to be not achievable.

It is therefore considered that underground storage is likely to be the best solution for surface water drainage.

### Highways

The County Highways Authority have no objection in principle to the development and are currently considering an addendum to the submitted Transport Statement. Subject to their detailed response (expected prior to the Planning Committee meeting) the proposals are considered acceptable in highways terms.

Careful consideration of the submission of an appropriate Travel Plan is required. As a site that is not in an unsustainable location, but is 2km from Taunton town centre, it is necessary to require a series of measures to promote and encourage more sustainable travel choices. The Transport Statement proposes:

- Appointment of a Travel Plan Co-ordinator;
- Restricted car parking provision;
- High levels of secure cycle parking provision;
- A Welcome Pack including details of local walking, cycle and public transport routes;
- Regular leaflet drops to advise of any changes in the above; and
- Promotion of the Council's County wide car share scheme.

The further views of the Highway Authority will be updated at the committee meeting.

### Design and Landscaping

The detailed design for 27 houses has been submitted with the full planning application. This includes terraced blocks of two-storey housing and a single apartment block containing 10 units that is also two storeys high.

An indicative layout for the remaining phases of development has been submitted with the outline application that shows three-storey blocks of 15 apartments on the southern part of the site and two-storey houses to the north.

The designs are considered to be appropriate for the location and the layout includes an efficient use of land that enables a development that can be affordable by design.

A 20 metre wide landscape bund is proposed to the north and west of the site to avoid light spillage and mitigate the impact on the Hestercombe House SAC. This also will provide an extremely effective screen around the development and a much improved edge between the built up area and surrounding landscape.

The provision of a community orchard to the north will further improve and mitigate against the impact of the development.

### Education, Leisure and Recreation Contributions

Requests for appropriate contributions to the Education Authority and Community Services would amount to just over £5,000 per property and the developer suggests that this would make the proposal unviable. Evidence has been submitted through a viability assessment and this has been considered by the case officer.

It is agreed that if these contributions were sought then the price that a purchaser would have to pay for each of the affordable houses would increase by the same amount. It is considered that this could start to take some of the properties outside of the realms of affordability and not cater for the specific needs that the application is designed to address.

It is therefore recommended that due to the very special circumstances of this proposal and the submitted viability assessment that contributions are not sought.

### Conclusion

It is considered that a specialist scheme to accommodate non-homeowners who are in housing need is sufficient justification to allow a departure from the Local Plan. Provided that all outstanding issues identified above are resolved, it is concluded that planning permission should be granted.

**In preparing this report the Planning Officer has considered fully the implications and requirements of the Human Rights Act 1988.**

**CONTACT OFFICER: Mr B Kitching Tel: 01823 358695**

08/11/0021

MR L THOMPSON

**ERECTION OF SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION AT 5 THE SHAULDERS,  
CHEDDON FITZPAINE**

Grid Reference: 324077.126407

Full Planning Permission

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**RECOMMENDATION AND REASON(S)**

Recommended Decision: Conditional Approval

The proposed development would harm neither visual nor residential amenity, nor would it be damaging to the character of the main dwelling. Accordingly, the proposal does not conflict with Taunton Deane Local Plan Policies S1 (General Requirements), S2 (Design) and H17 (Extensions to Dwellings).

**RECOMMENDED CONDITION(S) (if applicable)**

1. The development hereby permitted shall be begun within three years of the date of this permission.

Reason: In accordance with the provisions of Section 91 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by Section 51(1) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004).

2. The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans:

(A4) DrNo 1611\_01 Location Plan

(A4) DrNo 1611\_02 Site Plan

(A1) DrNo 1611\_03 Existing & Proposed Plans & Elevations

Reason: For the avoidance of doubt and in the interests of proper planning.

Notes for compliance

**PROPOSAL**

Erection of a lean to extension at the rear of the property measuring 2.9m x 5.7m. The materials to be used will match the existing property. There are no windows facing the neighbouring property and the proposal seeks to 'fill in' the rear patio area between the garage and the end of the property.

This application comes before the planning committee as the agent is related to a member of staff

## **SITE DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY**

5 The Shoulders is a detached property and finished in brick under a tiled roof. It has the benefit of an attached garage on the western elevation which in turn is attached to the neighbours detached garage. The garden is enclosed by a 1.8m fence.

Planning permission is required for the proposed extension as the permitted development rights have been withdrawn for the property.

## **CONSULTATION AND REPRESENTATION RESPONSES**

### **Consultees**

*SCC - TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT GROUP* - No observations

*CHEDDON FITZPAINE PARISH COUNCIL* - no comments received at the time of writing

### **Representations**

None received

## **PLANNING POLICIES**

H17 - TDBCLP - Extensions to Dwellings,  
S1 - TDBCLP - General Requirements,  
S2 - TDBCLP - Design,

## **DETERMINING ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS**

It is considered that the proposed extension will have no adverse impact on the neighbouring properties in terms of size and design. The existing dwelling is set slightly back from the no. 6 the Shoulders who have the benefit of a conservatory. The position of the extension behind the Applicant's garage will screen the proposal from the Neighbours at nos 3 and 4 The Shoulders.

The design is considered in keeping and the proposal is considered acceptable.

**In preparing this report the Planning Officer has considered fully the implications and requirements of the Human Rights Act 1998.**

**CONTACT OFFICER: Mrs S Melhuish Tel: 01823 356462**

MR & MRS M DOWNING

**ERECTION OF TWO STOREY EXTENSION AND PORCH TO THE WEST ELEVATION, AND CHANGE OF USE OF PART OF ADJOINING FIELD TO INCORPORATE WITHIN DOMESTIC CURTILAGE AT MITCHAMS, PREY LANE, SLOUGH GREEN, WEST HATCH (RESUBMISSION OF 47/11/0006)**

Grid Reference: 327403.120279

Full Planning Permission

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**RECOMMENDATION AND REASON(S)**

Recommended Decision: Refusal

The proposed two-storey extension, by virtue of its size, scale, design and positioning, appears as an incongruous addition, dominating and detracting from the simple linear form of the west elevation, to the detriment of the appearance of the existing dwelling and the rural character of the surrounding landscape. As such, the proposal is contrary to policies S1 (General Requirements), S2 (Design), H17 (Extensions to Dwellings) and EN12 (Landscape Character Areas) of the Taunton Deane Local Plan.

**RECOMMENDED CONDITION(S) (if applicable)**

Notes for compliance

**PROPOSAL**

Mitchams is a white render and slate large detached property, which has been extended significantly in the past. It lies in a countryside location, at Slough Green to the south-west of West Hatch. The property abuts Prey Lane, a no through road and is separated from a linear development of residential properties to the west, by an agricultural field.

Last year planning permission was sought for the erection of a two-storey extension to the west elevation of the property and the change of use of an area of the adjacent agricultural field to domestic curtilage to access the property on the west side. During the processing of the application, concerns were raised by the case officer regarding extending the property on the west elevation and a meeting was suggested by the case officer to ascertain whether there was a more appropriate means of extending the property on another elevation, which would have less impact on the appearance of the dwelling and surrounding landscape. As the applicants wished the extension to remain on the west elevation, no meeting took place to discuss alternatives and instead amended plans were received reducing the proposed extension from two-storey to single storey; and reducing the area of domestic curtilage from 12 metres in depth by 43.5 metres (the full width of the field)

to 7 metres by 30 metres. The amendments were not however considered to overcome the concerns raised and the application was refused.

A further planning application was received earlier this year for a two-storey extension and a porch to the west elevation; and the change of use of an area of 7 metres by 30 metres of agricultural field to domestic curtilage. To the west and south, a mound was proposed, which would be 750mm high on the west side and 1800mm high on the east side. This indicated that the ground level of the area proposed to be domestic curtilage would be reduced by 1 metre. This application was also refused.

The application now received is identical to the previous application and is accompanied by 6 letters of support.

## **CONSULTATION AND REPRESENTATION RESPONSES**

### **Consultees**

*WARD COUNCILLOR - CLLR JOHN WILLIAMS* – Support – Proposals are both modest in scale and unobtrusive in design. Furthermore, will not cause any impact on neighbouring properties and request for small amount of additional land within domestic curtilage is proportionate to extension requested. Can see no reason for refusal.

*SCC - TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT GROUP* - No observations

*WEST HATCH PARISH COUNCIL* - West Hatch PC 'endorses the granting of planning permission' for the above numbered application by Mr and Mrs Downing at Mitchams Slough Green. We understand that this application will now go to the TDBC Planning Committee.

*LANDSCAPE LEAD* - No new comments

#### *Comments on previous application:*

Further to the addition of the cross section on the block plan, I can confirm the revision is acceptable. It would be better if there was a native species hedgerow planted on the top of the bank but it is acceptable as proposed.

### **Representations**

Six letters of support were submitted along with the application raising the following issues:

- The owners currently have a dark dining room, extension will greatly improve their amenity by providing additional natural light.
- External appearance of proposed extension in keeping with existing house.
- House at end of 'no through' road so rarely seen by anyone.
- Western element of house stark/unsightly with tiny windows that appear out of proportion. Stands out from other properties and does not fit in. Believe two storey extension would enhance visually bland structure and surrounding area.

At the time of writing, six letters of support have been received during the processing

of the application (two of which are from same individual) raising the following issues:

- Slough Green not an archetypal, coherent hamlet, buildings of various materials and styles, no uniform building material nor design rhythm, all extensively extended. Property presents to hamlet, dull, unattractive, plain wall, land adjacent now purchased and now hopeful of rectifying unsightly aspect. Considers planning application complies with Taunton Deane planning policies.
- Proposed extension is modest and unobtrusive, would eliminate stark appearance of large wall on west elevation, would in no way detract, would in fact improve appearance of property and add attractiveness to surrounding area.
- Proposal seems entirely congruous with heterogeneous architecture of Prey Lane, sympathetic and sensitive addition to this dark old building.
- Alternative access to rear important addition for safety.
- Benefit to applicant of having extra light.
- Small amount of additional garden proportionate to extension requested.
- Alteration to drainage of field would get rid of problem of stagnant water at times of year.
- Would not cause issues with neighbouring properties, do not appear to be any objections in the village.
- If applications like this do not go through, we will be forever locked in the past, evolution lost and democracy loss in blind attempt to control each other.

A further letter was received from an individual, who had already submitted a letter with the application in support as it would enhance the present bland facia.

## **PLANNING POLICIES**

EN12 - TDBCLP - Landscape Character Areas,  
S1 - TDBCLP - General Requirements,  
S2 - TDBCLP - Design,  
H17 - TDBCLP - Extensions to Dwellings,

## **DETERMINING ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS**

Mitchams has been extended significantly in the past, to the north, south and east. Whilst these extensions have been visible as part of the west elevation, they were carefully designed with small scale limited openings and did not protrude forward of the west elevation. As such, the former extensions respected and retained the simple linear appearance of the west side of the property. It is important to note that, despite the numerous extensions and alterations permitted in the past, no extensions have been permitted at any point protruding forward of the west elevation or resulting in harm to the simple character of the property viewed across the open agricultural land from the rear.

The existing west elevation is simple in appearance with only three small windows at first floor level and no extensions or protrusions. The proposed two-storey extension, protruding 3 metres forward of this elevation, forms a large extension, which complicates and detracts from it's simple character.



The prominent gabled extension would break the current simple form and unbroken roof, disrupting the linear uniformity of the property and dominating the west elevation. This is exacerbated by the use of large windows, which appear out of character with the small scale traditional fenestration on the west side.

As such, the extension appears as an incongruous addition, bulky and dominating to the simple form of the west elevation, to the detriment of the appearance of the building and the rural character of the surrounding landscape.

**In preparing this report the Planning Officer has considered fully the implications and requirements of the Human Rights Act 1998.**

**CONTACT OFFICER: Mrs K Walker (née Purchase) Tel: 01823 356468**

## MISCELLANEOUS ITEM

38/09/0359

### KNIGHTSTONE

#### **ERECTION OF 18 AFFORDABLE APARTMENTS TOGETHER WITH ASSOCIATED ACCESS WORKS, PARKING AND LANDSCAPING ON LAND AT 49 WORDSWORTH DRIVE, TAUNTON**

#### **BACKGROUND**

The above application was considered by Members at Committee on 20th January 2010 and was granted subject to Section 106 agreement to secure leisure and recreation contributions and the decision was issued on 16th August 2010.

Condition 6 of the approval stated that:

The existing trees and hedge along the southern boundary of the site shall be retained and shall not be lopped, topped or removed without the agreement in writing of the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure the development makes a satisfactory contribution to the preservation of the local character and distinctiveness of the area and to safeguard amenity in accordance with Taunton Deane Local Plan policy S2.

An application has subsequently been submitted to address the requirements of condition 6. This follows a tree survey of the trees on the southern boundary which concludes that the trees are in poor structural condition and have a limited remaining life expectancy of less than 10 years. The applicant's intention is therefore to remove the trees/hedge concerned and replace with semi mature trees so as to provide a more instant effect which would in turn be visually attractive, enhance the development and surrounding buildings and provide all year round visual interest. This would avoid a health and safety issue with the existing trees. The new trees would also provide long term screening benefits as the life of the new trees will extend far beyond the short life expectancy of those existing.

A revised plan has been sought following neighbour consultations and the lack of evergreen species as part of the replacement planting. The Landscape Officer has advised on the revised planting scheme and is satisfied with the proposals which include Holly, Hornbeam and Scots Pine.

#### **REPRESENTATIONS**

The neighbours on land to the south in Parmin Close have been re-notified and there have been 3 letters of objection on the grounds of some windows

are closer than 20m and some of the trees are deciduous and would not provide a satisfactory screen during the winter months.

## **ASSESSMENT**

The conclusion of the tree survey in terms of the structural condition and life expectancy of the trees is accepted by the Landscape Officer. The replacement of the trees therefore has to be considered in terms of whether it is better done now rather than later. Carrying the works out now will impact on the existing adjoining residents to the south in the short term. However, while there has been discussion over developing the site to the south there is no timescale for this and no action now could impact on the residents of the new flats given the safety issue of the existing trees. It is therefore considered that the replacement of the boundary trees now would be a better option.

The existing boundary is totally evergreen and the objections received are on the basis that the replacement trees are not of the same evergreen species and could give rise to overlooking issues in the winter time. The non evergreen is the hornbeam and this does retain leaves through the winter. On this basis it is considered that the impact on the communal space of the flats and the amenity of these properties to the south is an acceptable one.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The revised planting details to replace trees on the boundary in compliance with condition 6 be agreed.

**In preparing this report the Planning Officer has considered fully the implications and requirements of the Human Rights Act 1998.**

**CONTACT OFFICER: Mr G.Clifford Tel:01823 356398**

# **Taunton Deane Borough Council**

**Planning Committee - 9 NOVEMBER 2011**

**E/0185/38/11**

## **LARGE CONTAINER SITED TO FRONT OF GARAGES ON RYDON LANE, TAUNTON**

**OCCUPIER:** MR D JARMAN

**OWNER:** MR D JARMAN. 4 GRAVELANDS LANE, HENLADE

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### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To consider whether it is expedient to serve an Enforcement Notice requiring the removal of the container sited on the hardstanding to the front of the garages off Rydon Lane, Taunton.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Committee be authorised to serve an Enforcement Notice to secure the removal of the container with a 6 week compliance time.

### **SITE DESCRIPTION**

The site is a block of garages with hardstandings off Rydon Lane and off Cheddon Road, Taunton. It is surrounded by residential properties. The container is against the south west boundary of the hardstandings to the front of the garages and adjacent to the lane. The lane is narrow and visibility for the adjoining neighbour to the west is restricted by the container.

### **BACKGROUND**

The complaint was first brought to the Council's attention in June 2011. Contact was made with the owner and he was advised to either remove the container or submit an application for its retention. Despite several requests to either remove the container or submit an application, to date the container still remains in situ and an application for its retention has not been received.

### **DESCRIPTION OF BREACH OF DEVELOPMENT CONTROL**

The container is sited on the hardstanding of the garages in Rydon Lane, adjacent to the lane. The container was put together on site and I understand is a present empty. The use of the land has now changed from garage hardstanding to storage.

## **RELEVANT PLANNING HISTORY**

Planning permission was granted for demolition of the block of 11 garages and erection of new dwelling under Planning permission 38/03/0342 dated 6th August 2003. However this permission was not implemented and therefore has now expired.

## **RELEVANT PLANNING POLICIES**

### **National Policy, Guidance or Legislation**

PPG 18 - Enforcing Planning Control

Taunton Deane Local Plan 2004

S1 (General Requirements)

S2 (Design)

## **DETERMINING ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS**

The issue here is largely the visual amenity of the area but also safety. The container is sited in front of a group of garages adjacent to the lane serving a number of properties. The container appears incongruent in this location and detracts from the character and visual amenity of the area and is considered contrary to policies S1(D) and S2 (A) of the Local Plan.

The location of the container also makes it difficult for vehicles to exit the property to the west of the site by blocking visibility to the east. This would be contrary to policy S1(A) of the Local Plan. It is therefore recommended that an Enforcement Notice be issued to secure the removal of the container within 6 weeks of the Notice coming into effect.

**In preparing this report the Enforcement Officer has considered fully the implications and requirements of the Human Rights Act 1998**

CONTACT OFFICER: **Mrs A Dunford**

Tel: **01823 356479**

**APPEALS RECEIVED : FOR COMMITTEE AGENDA : 09 November 2011**

<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Application/Enforcement Number</b>
ERECTION OF CLASS A1 RETAIL UNIT AND RECONFIGURATION OF CAR PARKING AT TAUNTON RETAIL PARK, HANKRIDGE WAY, TAUNTON AS AMENDED	07 OCTOBER 2011	48/11/0011

## **Planning Committee – 9 November 2011**

Present:- Councillor Bishop (Chairman)  
Councillor Coles (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillors Mrs Allgrove, Bowrah, Denington, A Govier, Mrs Hill,  
Miss James, Nottrodt, Mrs Reed, Tooze, Watson, Ms Webber and  
D Wedderkopp

Officers:- Mr B Kitching (Development Management Lead), Mrs J Moore (Major  
Applications Co-ordinator), Mr M Bale (West Area Co-ordinator),  
Mr R Williams (Planning Officer), Mrs J Jackson (Legal Services Manager),  
and Miss M Casey (Planning and Litigation Solicitor)

Also present: Mrs A Elder, Chairman of the Standards Committee

(The meeting commenced at 5.00 pm)

### **99. Apologies/Substitutions**

Apologies: Councillors C Hill, Mrs Messenger, Morrell, Mrs Smith and Wren  
Substitutions: Councillor Ms Webber for Councillor C Hill  
Councillor Nottrodt for Councillor Morrell

### **100. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 28 September 2011 were taken as read and were signed.

### **101. Declarations of Interest**

Councillors Govier and D Wedderkopp declared personal interests as Members of Somerset County Council. Councillor Mrs Hill declared a personal interest as an employee of Somerset County Council. Councillor Miss James declared a personal interest as an employee of Viridor. Councillor Tooze declared a personal interest as an employee of UK Hydrographic Office. Councillor Mrs Reed declared a personal interest as her daughter worked as an administrator in Development Control. Councillor Mrs Hill declared a prejudicial interest in application No 47/11/0008 and left the meeting during the consideration of this item. Councillor Miss James declared a personal interest in application Nos 08/10/0008 and 08/10/0009 as she was a member of both the Somerset Wildlife Trust and the National Trust. Councillor Nottrodt declared a personal interest in application Nos 08/10/0008 and 08/10/0009 as the Ward Councillor. Councillor Ms Webber declared a personal interest in application Nos 08/10/0008, 08/10/0009 and 08/11/0021 as the Chairman of Cheddon Fitzpaine Parish Council. Councillor Bishop declared that he had attended a parish council meeting where Agenda item 11 had been discussed. However, he did not consider that he had fettered his discretion.

### **102. Applications for Planning Permission**

The Committee received the report of the Growth and Development Manager concerning applications for planning permission and it was **resolved** that they be dealt with as follows:-

That **planning permission be granted** for the under-mentioned developments:-

**08/11/0021**

**Erection of single storey rear extension at 5 The Shoulders, Cheddon Fitzpaine**

**Conditions**

- (a) The development hereby permitted shall be begun within three years of the date of this permission;
- (b) The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plans.

**Reason for granting planning permission:-**

The proposed development would not harm either visual or residential amenity, nor would it be damaging to the character of the main dwelling. Accordingly, the proposal did not conflict with Taunton Deane Local Plan Policies S1 (General Requirements), S2 (Design) and H17 (Extensions to Dwellings).

**47/11/0008**

**Erection of two storey extension and porch to the west elevation and change of use of part of adjoining field to incorporate within domestic curtilage at Mitchams, Prey Lane, Slough Green, West Hatch (resubmission of 47/11/0006)**

**Conditions**

- (a) The development hereby permitted shall be begun within three years of the date of this permission;
- (b) The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plans;
- (c) The materials to be used in the construction of the external surfaces of the extension hereby permitted shall match those used in the existing building, unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

**Reason for granting planning permission:-**

The size, scale, design and positioning of the two storey extension were not incongruous and did not detract from the simple linear form of the west elevation and were in compliance with policies of the Taunton Deane Local Plan.

**Reason for granting planning permission contrary to the recommendation of the Growth and Development Manager:-**

Members felt that the size, scale and design of the proposal did not detract from the rural character of the surrounding landscape.



(Councillor Mrs Hill declared a prejudicial interest in the above application and left the meeting before detailed consideration took place.)

**103. Residential development of 27 affordable dwellings with associated parking and site works forming Phase 1 at land to the north of Ladymead Community School, Cheddon Road, Taunton**

Reported this application.

**Resolved** that subject to:-

(1) The satisfactory resolution of the outstanding issue relating to protected species on the site (provision of habitat for Greater Crested Newts); and

(2) The applicants entering into a legal agreement to secure:-

- (i) An appropriate mix of 100% affordable housing as identified in the Committee report;
- (ii) Off-site landscaping and planting as identified in the Hestercombe House Special Area of Conservation (SAC) test of significance;
- (iii) A phasing of works as identified in the Hestercombe House SAC test of significance;
- (iv) Any other outstanding issues that were appropriate and identified in the outstanding consultation responses; and
- (v) Green Travel Vouchers to be provided, in line with Somerset County Council guidance, and with a value of £100-£250 depending on the size of the dwelling,

the Growth and Development Manager be authorised to determine the application in consultation with the Chairman or Vice-Chairman and, if planning permission was granted, the following conditions be imposed:-

- (a) Time limits for implementation of the development;
- (b) List of approved plans;
- (c) Submission of materials;
- (d) Landscaping and subsequent maintenance;
- (e) Details of an appropriate surface water drainage system;
- (f) Biodiversity mitigation;
- (g) Travel plan;
- (h) Highways conditions;
- (i) External lighting;
- (j) Finished floor levels; and
- (k) Boundary treatments.

(Note : As detailed consultation responses were outstanding at the time of writing the Committee report, precise wording of planning conditions was still to be agreed.)

**Reason for planning permission, if granted:-**

Although outside of the defined development limits of Taunton the proposal addressed a specific housing need of affordable housing and low-cost home ownership in a location which had good links to local facilities and would not have any adverse impact on wildlife. The proposal also included a stronger landscape buffer between the existing development and open countryside that acted as a bat foraging area. It was considered that these specific benefits outweighed the normal restrictions on development outside of the defined settlement but in a sustainable location. The proposal accorded with Policies S1 and S2 of the Taunton Deane Local Plan.

**104. Outline application for a residential development of 100 affordable dwellings with associated site works on land North of Ladymead Community School, Cheddon Road, Taunton (08/10/0009)**

Reported this application.

**Resolved** that subject to:-

(3) The satisfactory resolution of the outstanding issue relating to protected species on the site (provision of habitat for Greater Crested Newts); and

(4) The applicants entering into a legal agreement to secure:-

- (i) An appropriate mix of 100% affordable housing as identified in the Committee report;
- (ii) Off-site landscaping and planting as identified in the Hestercombe House Special Area of Conservation (SAC) test of significance;
- (iii) A phasing of works as identified in the Hestercombe House SAC test of significance;
- (iv) Any other outstanding issues that were appropriate and identified in the outstanding consultation responses; and
- (v) Green Travel Vouchers to be provided, in line with Somerset County Council guidance, and with a value of £100-£250 depending on the size of the dwelling,

the Growth and Development Manager be authorised to determine the application in consultation with the Chairman or Vice-Chairman and, if planning permission was granted, the following conditions be imposed:-

- (a) Time limits for implementation of the development;
- (b) List of approved plans;
- (c) Submission of materials;
- (d) Landscaping and subsequent maintenance;
- (e) Details of an appropriate surface water drainage system;
- (f) Biodiversity mitigation;
- (g) Travel plan;
- (h) Highways conditions;
- (i) External lighting;
- (j) Finished floor levels; and
- (k) Boundary treatments.

(Note : As detailed consultation responses were outstanding at the time of writing the Committee report, precise wording of planning conditions was still to be agreed.)

**Reason for planning permission, if granted:-**

Although outside of the defined development limits of Taunton the proposal addressed a specific housing need of affordable housing and low-cost home ownership in a location which had good links to local facilities and would not have any adverse impact on wildlife. The proposal also included a stronger landscape buffer between the existing development and open countryside that acted as a bat foraging area. It was considered that these specific benefits outweighed the normal restrictions on development outside of the defined settlement but in a sustainable location. The proposal accorded with Policies S1 and S2 of the Taunton Deane Local Plan.

**105. Erection of 18 affordable apartments together with associated access works, parking and landscaping on land at 49 Wordsworth Drive, Taunton**

The above application was granted planning permission on 16 August 2010. Condition 6 of the approval stated that “The existing trees and hedge along the southern boundary of the site shall be retained and shall not be lopped, topped or removed without the agreement in writing of the Local Planning Authority.”

An application had subsequently been submitted to address the requirements of the condition. This had followed a tree survey of the trees on the southern boundary which had concluded that the trees were in poor structural condition and had a limited remaining life expectancy of less than 10 years.

The applicant’s intention was therefore to remove the trees/hedge concerned and replace them with semi mature trees so as to provide a more instant effect which would be visually attractive, enhance the development and surrounding buildings and provide all year round visual interest.

A revised plan had been sought following neighbour consultations and the lack of evergreen species as part of the replacement planting. The Landscape Officer had advised on the revised planting scheme and was satisfied with the proposals which included Holly, Hornbeam and Scots Pine.

As the existing boundary was totally evergreen, objections from local residents had been received on the basis that the replacement trees were not of the same evergreen species and could give rise to overlooking issues in the winter time.

Members felt that the Landscape Officer should be requested to reconsider the suitability of the species of trees/hedge to replace the existing southern boundary. The extension of the length of screening beyond what was there at the moment was also supported.

**Resolved** that subject to the Landscape Officer and the applicants agreeing an amended scheme for the replacement of trees along the southern boundary of the

site at 49 Wordsworth Drive, Taunton, the Growth and Development Manager in consultation with the Chairman be authorised to agree the application.

**106. Large container sited to the front of garages on Rydon Lane, Taunton**

Reported that it had come to the Council's attention that a large container had been sited against the south-west boundary of the hardstandings to the front of the garages in Rydon Lane, Taunton.

The owner of the container had been informed that planning permission was required to retain it on the site but, to date, no application to regularise the situation had been received.

**Resolved** that:-

- (i) An enforcement notice be served to seek the removal from the land of the unauthorised container which had been sited on the hardstandings to the front of the garages in Rydon Lane, Taunton ;
- (ii) The Solicitor to the Council be authorised to take prosecution proceedings in the event that the enforcement notice was not complied with; and
- (iii) The time period for compliance with the notice be six weeks.

**107. Appeals**

Reported that one appeal had been lodged, details of which were submitted.

**108. Exclusion of the Press and Public**

**Resolved** that the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the following item because the likelihood that exempt information would otherwise be disclosed relating to Clause 2 of Schedule 12(A) to the Local Government Act 1972 and the public interest in withholding the information outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information to the public.

**109. Schedule of Alleged Contraventions up to 30 September 2011**

Reported details of the Schedule of Alleged Contraventions for the second quarter of 2011 (July, August and September 2011). The Schedule provided details of the following information:-

1. Cases that were under investigation at the end of Quarter 2;
2. Cases that were closed during Quarter 2; and
3. Cases where formal enforcement action had been authorised with an update on the current situation as at end of Quarter 2.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

(The meeting ended at 7.15 pm)