**Local Plan Notes Councillors Report for Motcombe Parish Council 09/09/2025**

Numbers have been given by this government to the Shire counties, and DC will have to find 50,000 new homes in the next 17 years. The draft Local Plan of Jan 2021 was useful but it now needs to be built upon, and national planning policy changes added. The situation in Dorset is that 25,000 have already been planned for – extant consents etc. So we need to find 25,000 in the coming years. Although it’s disappointing that there has been no push back by the current administration at DC.

It has come to our notice that some sites have been inserted by officers as recommendations, without the landowners consent or knowledge. I was pretty cross about this and asked for a comprehensive list of these officer suggestions/recommendations, which I have now received.

So, if you look at any aspect of the Plan and suspect that the landowner did not offer up their land. The owner urgently needs to be advised of the situation. They can remove the availability of the land by contacting Terry Sneller, Strategic Planning Manager; quoting the plan ref number, (must be explicit) and requesting it be removed.

(Any land removed at this stage can be reinserted in the future, if need be)

Settlement Boundaries

1. So, looking at The Plan – specifically in the rural areas. I feel removal of the Settlement Boundaries (SB) from all the settlements – particularly the larger villages, would be very dangerous. With no SB there would be no control over speculative development, and it would be practically impossible to put them back.
2. What’s behind this proposal is the view/fear that we won’t be able to deliver the numbers without expanding some of our larger villages, beyond their SB. That may well be so, but it does not warrant the removal of the SB. Our challenge to DC planning officers is to write sound, workable, policies that enable this small scale expansion, while leaving the SB in place. A special policy needs to be written to enable this – not removal of the SB.
3. Really disappointing that work seems to have halted on our approach to introduce 1 or 2 new community’s – delivered through a masterplan. Instead of 50k houses distributed through 53 larger villages.

Finally, there is also a Transport Plan consultation happening at the moment, which also ends on 13th October. This is very important too. So please put aside time to give these two matters your attention.

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<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/dorset-is-changing>

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/local-transport-plan-supporting-strategies>

 Cllr Val Pothecary.