

Massive Increase in House Building Proposed

5,150 homes could be built in Purbeck over the next 20 years if the Government accepts recommendations of the Panel who conducted the Examination in Public into the regional Spatial Strategy - the 'blueprint' for our Region.

The figure represents a 145% increase over the 2,100 homes proposed by the Regional Assembly and accepted by Purbeck planners as achievable without damage to the districts environment.

Purbeck District Council's January meeting unanimously resolved to fight such a devastating increase. Some 2,750 homes, a town the size of Wareham, is proposed north of Lytchett Minster on land currently protected by Green Belt policy. A further 2,400 dwellings are proposed elsewhere within Purbeck, which will inevitably impact on Wareham.



Green Belt - under threat

The Government will publish a response to the recommendations in the spring, followed by a 12 week consultation period. The final modified Regional Spatial Strategy is expected to be published in autumn 2008.

Annette Brooke MP said "This is an appalling blow for local democracy and our area. Issues such as infrastructure and our inadequate local roads, encroachment into our green belt and flood plain issues have been totally ignored. I shall be writing to the Secretary of State directly".



Price hike for long stay parking

Bid to Hold Car Park Charges... **REJECTED**



Parking charges in most Wareham car parks will increase by up to 19% from the 1st April 2008, to 50 pence for every hour parked.

Wareham Town Council has agreed to fall in line with Purbeck District Council's charges, but will hold the new charges for two years in response to a suggestion by the town's Chamber of Trade. "This sensible proposal received the backing of all parties" reports the Town Council's Policy Committee Vice-chairman Cllr Keith Critchley.

Local Lib Dem Town and District Councillor Eric Osmond proposed at the District Council meeting that the District follow the Town Council's example, but Purbeck Tories rejected the bid 11 votes to 8, saying that a future Council could not be held to such an agreement. Wareham's Conservative District Councillor, not for the first time, failed to support a proposal which would have benefited the town.

Annette Brooke MP
and New Lib Dem
Leader Nick Clegg



Welcome to Nick Clegg - Our New Leader

Nick Clegg has been named as the new Leader of the Liberal Democrats and has now set out his vision for the party as the newly elected Lib Dem Leader.

Nick said "Firstly, I want to say thank you to members who have voted me Leader of the Liberal Democrats. This is a very exciting time to be Leader of our Party".

Nick continued: "my three main priorities as Leader are: to support Britain's families so every child gets the best start in life, to take real action to tackle crime, and to improve our NHS so it delivers the care people need".

Local MP Annette Brooke commented: "Nick Clegg will be an excellent Leader. As a spokesperson for Children and Schools I am thrilled that our new Leader is putting Britain's families and education at the forefront of the Liberal Democrat agenda and look forward to this new and exciting time".

NEWS IN BRIEF

TATCHELLS PIT

Viridor have applied for planning permission to install a new high temperature landfill gas flare and ancillary equipment to replace the existing plant. Landfill operations are due to end by 31 March 2008. "This should put an end to the severe odour problems which local residents have experienced in recent times" says Councillor David Budd.

Bid to Cut Secrecy

Purbeck's Liberal Democrat Leader, Councillor David Budd, has called for District Council to open its influential Policy Group meetings to the public and press.

A final decision will be made at the February Council meeting.

Watch this space for updates!

Your Lib Dem Team Working for you!



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