

Expansion Plans for Wareham

Opportunities for small scale housing developments on the edge of Wareham, to meet local housing needs, should be considered say Purbeck planners.

The proposal to redraw the 'green belt' boundary around the town to allow some new housing development, whilst at the same time safeguarding the countryside from urban sprawl has been put forward in a consultation document currently seeking your views on a series of options for the future planning of Wareham and Purbeck.

2100 HOUSES NEEDED IN PURBECK

A recent draft plan by the South West Regional Assembly has called for 2100 new homes to be built in Purbeck over the next 20 years, an average of 105 per year. A figure which Purbeck District Council feel the area can cope with.

Planners say that some 240 new homes could be provided within the town by reuse of existing land and buildings, but at a higher density; one example being the development of the old Rempstone Estate yard in Cow Lane.

However, Wareham may have to accommodate its share of approximately 350 new homes on sites adjoining, but outside the current town boundary.

"This could have a big impact on Wareham; if you want a say in the future of our town, you can find contact details below." Says Cllr David Budd



Cllr Eric Osmond at the old Rempstone Estate yard in Cow Lane
"Government policy will mean more high density developments in and around Wareham" Says Eric Osmond

HOUSING: HAVE YOUR SAY

The new planning 'blueprint' contains a number of planning options affecting Wareham, plus specific options for the town.

The 'Core Strategy Preferred Options' document can be viewed on the Council's website www.purbeck.gov.uk or at Purbeck District Council's Planning Reception at Westport House or at Wareham Library during normal opening hours.

Representations should be sent to: Planning Policy, Community Planning & Policy, Purbeck District Council, Westport House, Worgret Road, Wareham BH20 4PP or can be submitted via the website or via e-mail to ldf@purbeck-dc.gov.uk no later than 4 p.m. on Friday 10th November 2006.

"This is your chance to influence the policies included in the new 'local plan' for Purbeck, which will guide development locally until 2026" says Lib Dem Opposition Environment Spokesperson and Wareham Councillor Eric Osmond.

CASH CRISIS AT TORY RUN COUNTY COUNCIL

The Conservative-run County Council has hit a well publicised cash crisis, which unless drastic action is taken will result in the Council being at least £20 million in debt by 2010.

Cuts in services and increased charges are hitting the blind, the deaf, the elderly, the infirm and those in need.

"Conservatives promise 'good housekeeping' at election times, but this cash crisis proves they have failed to keep their promises" says Local County Councillor David Budd. "It's Dorset residents, particularly the vulnerable and those in need, who are paying the price of the Tories mismanagement of the County's finances" added the Liberal Democrat Councillor.



"Wareham Library is safe, but the Tory cash crisis means the book fund will be raided to keep branch libraries open." says Cllr David Budd

The Facts

- The Conservatives took control of Dorset County Council just five years ago when the average Council Tax set by the Lib Dems was under £700. Now it's £1,000.
- Back in 2000 the Council had no debt. Since then it has borrowed almost £133 million!
- Government Grants have increased from £195 million to £290 million a year.
- Income has soared, but expenditure has got totally out of control. Staffing costs alone have increased from £86 million to £131 million a year, up 52%.

HAUSES FIELD – WHAT NEXT?

Wareham Town Council in association with Wareham and District Development Trust, Wareham Town Trust and others have now completed the first phase of works to Hauses Field at Northmoor Park with the clearing, re-grading and re-seeding of the site.

Following public consultation in May and October the Town Council will now draw up a plan to provide suitable amenities for all age groups. Consultation showed high levels of support for upgrading the existing children's play area and providing facilities for older children as well as a sensory garden for older and disabled people. There was also significant support for a nature area and a picnic area. The need for better maintenance than in the past was highlighted.

"It's important that the Town Council carefully balances the desire for new facilities against the concerns of some nearby residents" says Cllr David Budd, who chairs the Town Council's Amenities Committee.



New timber planters at Hauses Field – Much more remains to be done

HOMES FOR DEPOT SITE?

Liberal Democrat Councillors have pressed Purbeck District Council to include **affordable housing** as one of the options for the future use of the former Council Depot in Pound Lane. An 'in principle' decision to sell the site was taken way back in 2001! Relocation of current storage and car parking uses will form part of the project plan.

"Providing housing to meet the needs of local people is one of the Council's six strategic priorities" says Cllr Eric Osmond. "This site gives the Council an opportunity to provide homes for some of the 962 households currently on the housing waiting list in Purbeck" added the concerned Councillor.



"Pound Lane depo could provide homes for local people." Says Cllr Eric Osmond

WAREHAM BLOOMS

Wareham has won 'Silver Gilt' in the Small Towns' Category of the South and South East Britain in Bloom Competition. Wareham in Bloom Committee Chairman Cllr Eric Osmond was congratulated by the Town Council at its October meeting on winning an 'Outstanding Achievement' award for his personal contribution to Wareham in Bloom since he founded it some 12 years ago.

Cllr Osmond paid tribute to all the hard work of many volunteers and Committee members who contributed to the success of Wareham in Bloom. He hoped the town would win Gold next year.



Cllr Osmond keeping Wareham blooming at home

FOOTPATH BLOCKED

The closure of shops in Daniel Drive has resulted in part of a much used footpath being grassed over and blocked by a metal fence, resulting in pedestrians having to walk in the road.

This footpath may have obtained Right of Way status. If you have used it for many years and want a footpath maintained then contact Town Cllr Doreen Cleaton at 1 Avon Drive, Northmoor Park, Wareham (telephone 553149)

BRIDGE REPAIR DELAYED

Repairs to the bridges over the railway and Sandford Lane have been delayed until spring 2007 Cllr David Budd has been told. New expansion joints to prevent the regular pot holes in the road surface will be installed at the same time as other works on a number of bridges on the Wareham Bypass.

Including the repairs with other works will save money David Budd has been told. Major repairs and refurbishment to South Bridge cost a staggering £349,000.

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If you have a question about any of the issues raised here, or any other concern, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will do what we can to help.


LIBERAL DEMOCRATS
www.annettebrooke.org.uk

Working all year round to support the local community

Got a problem or concern? Feel free to contact your Lib Dem team:



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