

Hughenden Parish Council

HUGHENDEN PARISH COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO PAUL CAWTE'S 'CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME' IN THE HUGHENDEN VALLEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

It is unfortunate, that the Chairman of Hughenden Valley Residents' Association has written an inaccurate and rather inflammatory 'Chairman's Welcome' in the March issue of Hughenden Valley Residents' Association's 'Hughenden News'.

Hughenden Parish Council has written to Paul Cawte, and to the HVRA planning committee, setting the record straight about some of the issues highlighted in the flyers and information sheets HVRA has been circulating in Hughenden Valley. The full text of three letters to the Parish Council, and the Council's response, may be viewed on the Parish Council website. The website also contains answers to a number of questions raised by parishioners on and after the rural housing Open Day in March.

Three particular points need to be addressed in connection with Paul Cawte's 'Chairman's Welcome' in the Newsletter:-
Secrecy
Extra Land
Review of sites

SECRECY – The Parish Council has made no secret of its interest in the provision of rural affordable housing. This has been on the Parish Council's published agenda regularly since the parish wide housing needs surveys of 2005/06. These identified a sufficient number of parishioners interested in such housing to make further exploration by the Parish Council a public duty. The confidential part of the discussions related to site identification: this was seen as being private to individual landowners and taken in closed session. The proposals regarding the Warrendene Road site were publicised shortly after the site was provisionally selected, and consultations then began with the Open Day on 10th March 2010.

EXTRA LAND - Paul Cawte's 'Chairman's Welcome' suggests there is something sinister about more land 'being taken' than is actually required for a small row of houses. The Parish Council insisted on the unused land being given to the Parish, if English Rural Housing Association goes ahead with the purchase of the Warrendene Road field. This was done in order to preserve the area as a green space. There is no intention to build on it.

REVIEW OF SITES – It has always been the intention to consider views expressed during the consultation process. Apart from responses from HVRA there has been much correspondence to the Parish Council Office and direct to English Rural Housing Association. There are many factors to consider and this will, you may be assured, be done responsibly.

For further information please contact the Parish Council Office on 01494-715296 or visit www.hughendenparishcouncil.org.uk

****UPDATE** 11th May 2010**

Continuing with the process following the open day on 10th March 2010, at the full Council meeting on 11th May 2010 the Parish Council resolved to update the housing needs survey for the whole Parish and, to this end, a new survey questionnaire will be issued to every household within the Parish during September 2010.

Over the summer months the English Rural Housing Association will look again at all the sites throughout the Parish, including those already considered. They will also look at any new sites identified by themselves or by the Housing Needs Survey or individual suggestions.

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