

## Thurlestone Parish Council meeting, 4 March 2019

### Community Housing Update

1. The Open Forum/Workshop on Community led Housing was held on 28 January 2019 and attended by around 65 people.
2. The purpose of the workshop was 2-fold:
  - To help identify the number of people with a local connection who may be eligible; and
  - To consult on the scale, design and siting of the proposed housing.

### Scale, design and siting

3. Before we go to the findings, I want to emphasise that although we received 39 completed questionnaires about the scale, design and siting of the housing, they do not purport to represent the parish as a whole. They do, however, provide us with a steer as to how the scheme should progress.
4. In terms of the **scale**, the question was – How many dwellings on a site would you consider to be about right? The response was: 36% said not more than 6 dwellings and 36% said not more than 8. There were additional comments about the 2 sites already under consideration, that WB should only take 6, whilst NU could probably take 8-10.
5. In terms of the **design**, we got very detailed comments, and cost will obviously be a factor. But over 60% of respondents favoured the courtyard, barn-style design, using natural building materials, and in keeping with surrounding properties. They liked the style of the market housing at Church Farm, North Upton barns and West Buckland Barns. And of the examples of Community led Housing across Devon, they preferred the South Hams' South Brent scheme. Energy efficiency, adequate on-site parking and outdoor space were considered the most important features.
6. In terms of the **site**, we still only have 2 possible sites (WB and NU). No other suitable sites have been offered. In response, 35% favoured North Upton, whilst 55% favoured WB and 10% said they liked both sites. North Upton was considered to be an easier site to develop, with more scope, better road access and better drainage; whilst WB was considered the natural choice as it already had a full-time community, is closer to all 3 existing villages and within walking distance of the schools, shop, pub and other facilities. Proximity to school and shops were considered the joint top priority, and bus route came a close second.

## Eligibility

7. Since the initiative got underway, 19 households have expressed an interest in the community led housing 'to buy' initiative - all local working people - and 9 attended the workshop in January and completed the eligibility questionnaire.
8. Of those 9, **6 households** met the HTB SW and parish local connection criteria. In response to a point raised at the last PC meeting, they consist of 4 couples with children, 1 couple and 1 single person without children.
9. Why they are eligible? – see slide.
10. **Next steps:**
  - To check back with the landowner of the WB site to ensure that he will agree to provide 6 plots for community housing, without any conditions, such as additional open market housing.
  - To update the SHDC community housing officer.
11. The next NP Advisory Group meeting is on Tuesday 12 March at 7.30pm. This is a public meeting and is an opportunity to raise questions and discuss the community housing in more detail.

***Sue Crowther***

***Thurlestone Parish NP Advisory Group (Chair)***