

Community-Led Housing – Public Announcement

Since the Open Forum and Workshop in January, we have been working with SHDC's Community Housing officer to progress a site for community-led housing in **West Buckland**.

The West Buckland site is owned by the Bantham Estate and in March, the Estate agreed to sell the site to SHDC for six building plots for community-led housing subject to entering an Option Agreement with SHDC.

To date, the Option Agreement has not been completed, but SHDC has proceeded at risk using funding from the national Community Housing Fund, which supports community-led housing developments in areas, such as our parish, where the impact of second homes is particularly acute. In April, SHDC commissioned ecological and topographic surveys of the site and in June, they assembled a project management and design team.

However, the site at West Buckland is now in doubt. The Bantham Estate is concerned about objections raised by local residents and has offered SHDC a substitute site in Bantham, in the field opposite the village shop, which it considers may raise fewer objections and may be easier to develop.

Since this community-led housing is a neighbourhood plan initiative, it is for the parish to decide where this site is located – *“the right type of housing in the right place”* – and we have two public meetings coming up to discuss this:

The Neighbourhood Plan Committee meeting on Tuesday 1 October at 7.30pm in the Yeo Room, Thurlestone Parish Hall. At this meeting, which will be recorded, we would like to hear your views about the three sites: West Buckland, Bantham and North Upton (the Parish Council's original preferred site).

The Parish Council Meeting on Monday 7 October at 7pm in the Yeo Room, Thurlestone Parish Hall. At this meeting, the Chairman will recap on the views expressed at the Neighbourhood Plan Committee meeting and you will have a further opportunity to express your views about the three sites. Councillors will then be asked to vote on its preferred site in order of priority: West Buckland, Bantham and North Upton.

Thurlestone Parish Council
24 September 2019