

Chidham and Hambrook Parish Council position statement on the current situation with regard to Chichester District Council's Local Plan

Following a review, Chichester District Council cannot demonstrate a robust five year supply of housing land, as required by national planning policy. This means that from the 15th July 2020 the 'made' Chidham and Hambrook Parish Neighbourhood Plan 2015-2029 will no longer be underpinned by the Local Plan and the presumption in favour of sustainable development, as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework, will apply to proposals for housing development. The result of this is that local control over planning applications will be greatly reduced. In an attempt to retain some control and to give guidance to developers and others the District Council has produced a 'Draft Interim Policy Statement for Housing'. The Interim Policy Statement refers to policies in the original Local Plan and in the proposed Local Plan Review but the latter is unlikely to be completed until mid 2021. There is therefore a strong possibility that without an up to date Local Plan and five year supply of housing land developers and others will be in a stronger position to challenge any decision by the District Council and at present the independent inspectors of the Planning Inspectorate tend to find in favour of the appellant.

This is not a situation that the Parish Council would wish for when working on behalf of residents. Chidham and Hambrook Parish Council supports Chichester District Council in its attempt to offer guidance to developers so that, in the event that the Council is not able to demonstrate a robust five year supply of local housing land, planning applications will nevertheless be designed to meet the needs of the district, its environment, communities, and residents prior to the adoption of a new Local Plan.

27/7/20