

Notes of a meeting of the working party on the possibility of affordable housing in the parish.

23 January 2024 at 14:00 in Guestling.

Present

Cllr M Griffiths (Chair)

Cllr G Furness

Cllr P Knatchbull-Hugessen (Notes)

Cllr David Penfold, Chair, Pett Parish Council

Cllr John Case, Pett Parish Council

Mary Philo, Clerk to Pett Parish Council.

Pett Parish Council (PPC) reviewed the Housing Needs survey completed in 2021 and remain unconvinced by the findings. They have unresolved issues with some of the construction of the original questionnaire and thus are not convinced by the information drawn from that data.

Because Pett PC is now a different council, it reviewed its position at a recent council meeting and decided that its' view is unchanged, being the following

**'The council resolved:**

**i) to confirm its previous decision (following the results of the Housing Needs Survey) that there was not sufficient support in the opinion of the parish council for the requirement for low-cost housing in the parish. *There were those who requested low-cost housing, but the nature of the requests was such that they were unlikely to be met by any scheme within the parish.***

**ii) to confirm that, at the present time, it will not support the development of any Exception Site in or bordering the parish. *However, this does not mean that it will in future not support a scheme providing there is a proven need and the conditions are favourable.***

**iii) to confirm that it will only support the use of the land (in the parish of Guestling) behind Pett Road and Watermill Lane as an Exception Site, if acceptable to nearby residents living in Pett Parish and if access routes are acceptable to East Sussex Highways.**

**iv) to review and comment on the Rother District Council draft local plan when it becomes available later this year and to decide at that time, subject to resolution (iii) above, whether it will support the proposal for an Exception Site.**

**v) to call a public meeting on the Local Plan for public consultation once the local plan has been opened for district wide public consultation.**

They look forward to the draft of the new Local Plan and would expect to engage actively in the consultation process. They would hope to engage the parishioners in that process perhaps through public meetings. Should affordable housing again be within the Local Plan they would expect to discuss it and form a view.

In order to encourage informed consideration and decision-making the working group was happy to share its findings and information that it has gathered with PPC in particular the definition of Affordable Housing from the NPPF Glossary, the current Guidance (November 2023) published by the Government, a research briefing from the House of Commons library, and RDC's own information on affordable housing. (These documents can be found on the Guestling PC website)