

LOCAL PLAN COMMITTEE – WEDNESDAY, 29 JANUARY 2025

QUESTIONS AND ANSWER SESSION

Question from Mr M Elton

I am struggling to understand why our local council would choose to build on the picturesque West Whitwick valley which clearly is a very difficult area to even consider building houses on. The cost and effort that is going to be required to build affordable housing on this plot seems unachievable. As well as these challenges this area is full of wildlife such as badgers, bats, foxes, rabbits, sparrowhawk's, owls and herons just to name a few as well as the amazing walks through the area containing ponds, streams and hedgerows which is used by so many people to keep healthy and maintain good wellbeing. Please can you explain to us how this area has been kept in the local plan whilst a proven more viable and sustainable option Meadow Lane was removed by yourselves?

Response from the Chair of the Local Plan Committee

'The government has made it clear that Local Plans must address the need for new housing, with a national target of 1.5 million new homes being required over the next five years. A failure to make sufficient provision will almost certainly result in the plan being considered as not sound at Examination.

Meeting future housing needs has to be reconciled with the need to protect and, where possible, enhance the environment. Any new development will be required to deliver biodiversity net gain equivalent to at least 10% as required by the Environment Act 2021.

The Local Plan Committee considered the merits of the site at Meadow Lane at its meeting on 15 November 2023 but was of the view that the site should not be allocated. '