

Statement to BANES cabinet 16th January, 2020

My name is Alyson Lampard and I am a member of the Whitchurch Village Neighbourhood planning team .

We started work in 2014 and succeeded in having a democratically adopted Neighbourhood plan “made “ by Banes in 2018 .

As you know, a great deal of work goes into this at a local level including significant gathering of evidence and close attention to the National Planning Policy framework as we shape the development of our village .

It was great relief when we heard the news in the summer that the Inspectors of the JSP called a halt to the hearings. They were unconvinced that the most appropriate sites had been identified as Strategic development locations. They have asked for more work to be done on this .

I have lived and worked in Whitchurch village for 22 years and I know the area well . While I appreciate that there is a housing shortage ,we all know that it is of paramount importance that new sites are sustainable and that we design homes in locations where we build communities that foster good health and wellbeing

The residents of Whitchurch would appreciate your communication on this matter . We , above all , would like reassurance that large scale development will not take place without the appropriate infrastructure in place . We had an exceptionally high turn out of voters for our NP , 97% of whom stated that they wanted the Village to remain as a village and that they valued the Green belt .

I would be very happy to work with you in the future to demonstrate why the Greenbelt ,green fields and farm land around Whitchurch Village are not sustainable sites for large scale development . I would ask you to look at the evidence related to commutability, air quality , strategic routes , access to doctors , schools , the local economy and employment , flood risk and the affordability of a very expensive road .

Our neighbourhood plan and policy development was underway when the JSP came into the being . The BANES planning department had full opportunity to adversely comment which they didn't. We were informed that it would be beneficial to our community to get our NP to referendum and passed. We promised our community a say in its future , we worked hard on the principle of accepting sustainable development that would be welcomed into the village and gaining benefit for all .

This enormous development plan is not what our community voted for and is not sustainable .

