

General Scrutiny Committee Meeting – 22 September 2021

Supplementary Questions

1. Mr. C Haughton (in attendance)

“Why is this development being progressed in Holme Lacy a village with no amenities, no village shop, social club etc. and which would mean that young people living there would have nowhere to go, which could in turn lead to an increase in crime.”

Response from Councillor Tyler:

“The site was identified in 2019 for potential development and there is a need to deliver affordable homes across the County. Although there are no current amenities, community spaces could be encouraged as part of the development. The proposal would still need to go through the normal Planning process.”

2. Mrs Wiseman (received in writing and read out by the Democratic Services Manager)

“Affordable homes/social housing suggests that some of the people who will be residing in these dwellings may be on a low income. Holme Lacy is in a rural location, some families may not have access to their own transport or be able to afford public transport to access local amenities. (Holme Lacy has no shop, post office and a poor bus service). Therefore, residents may experience social isolation, which in turn could have an impact on their mental health, requiring medical intervention, which may put a further strain on an already overstretched Fownhope surgery.”

Has the council considered how living in a rural location with no amenities, and poor transport links will affect new residents?

Response from Councillor Tyler:

“Social isolation in rural areas is a countywide issue that we are looking to address through our transport strategy. We need to be connecting local villages and the rest of the community. Holme Lacy has been identified as a development site and included in our core strategy and there has to be some proportional development here however each application will be considered on its merit and all these factors will be taken into consideration.”

3. Mrs Stubbings (in attendance)

“Affordable rural housing development sites rarely become available. The Holmes Lacy site is a once in a generation opportunity to deliver affordable housing while making much needed improvements in infrastructure to mitigate the impact on the village. I’m concerned that if the site is not used for affordable housing then it is unlikely that other rural sites will be made available for those wishing to live in the community. If the pipeline list does not include other sites in the rural Herefordshire area, how will the Council assist local people who can’t afford current housing market prices?”

Response from Councillor Tyler:

“From our pipeline of developments we are considering all Council land at the moment. We are also engaging with third parties, looking at other sites, as we recognise that the Council cannot deliver all the required affordable housing. We know that we have an extensive shortfall of affordable homes; both social housing and shared ownership homes for first time buyers and key workers who need and want to live in the area close to work and family.”