



**MINUTES  
OF THE OPEN MEETING OF THE ALPHINGTON FORUM**

**22 JANUARY 2013  
VILLAGE HALL**

**ACTION**

**1.0 ATTENDANCE**

1.0.1 See separate sheet (total of 32 + councillors)

**1.1 Councillors in Attendance**

Margaret Clarke  
Rob Crew  
Vanessa Newcombe  
Rod Ruffle

**2.0 PROGRESS**

2.0.1 Since the last meeting two workshops have been held with Exeter City Council/Devon County Council on transport.

2.0.2 The Forum has written to RS about concerns on number of houses conflicting with Core Strategy and Design Guides. We have suggested 250 houses is more suitable and asked for Core Strategy to be amended. This was declined by RS as there was no evidence submitted and revision would be difficult, RS therefore will continue with development brief including 400-500 dwellings.

2.0.3 The Forum has written opposing the Teignbridge plan.

2.0.4 Members of the Forum have met with Exminster Parish Councillors and agreed on opposition to Teignbridge plans eg no housing between Markham Ridge to A379 – relocate park from south to north of A379 to form green wedge between us. Exminster wants to reduce houses to maximum of 1,500 from 2,000 in self-contained village called Matford – A379 cannot be downgraded - no urban sprawl.

**3.0 AVF POINTS FROM HIGHWAYS– WORKSHOP No 1**

3.0.1 Jamie Hulland very helpful but main thrust to solving transport problems is for residents to use sustainable travel, IE BUSES AND BICYCLES.

3.0.2 The Forum has suggested traffic restrictions and alternative routes. DCC traffic count is 350 cars now on Chudleigh Road during morning peak hour, but with new houses built, there will be 200-300 more cars causing even worse congestion and pollution than at present. Train station to be provided for Marsh Barton will not help our problems.

VN – Highways are consultees and cannot control design and numbers of dwellings.

Chair read agreed items arising from both Highways Workshops as follows:

- Travel Plan for 1<sup>st</sup> part of site to be developed will consider impact on entire site. Developer will contribute towards traffic calming/improvements; buses, cycle tracks and pavements.
- No direct access from new to existing residential roads;
- Junctions design not over top;
- Walk to school difficult as a long way from new houses;
- Car parking essential on site;
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3.0.3 The Chairman expressed Forum's concerns to ECC:

- Not being listened to and concerns not addressed
- Infrastructure delayed until Teignbridge Plan is developed (2018)
- Huge pressure on primary school and surgery, traffic etc.;
- Flooding issues;
- Localism does not mean control;
- Reduced housing numbers means less money for improvements.

VN read an e-mail from Jamie Hulland "since last meeting he has investigated bus routing options and is undertaking more car counting to assess rat running. DM – traffic data being used may be historic as it predates 20mph limit.

3.0.4 Comments from the floor on Transport:

- Suggested vehicles using Chudleigh Road are not "rat running" but just finding most efficient route, perhaps should consider term "commuter traffic".
- Cannot force people to use "alternative transport".
- Vehicle use of roads is self managing – when it gets too busy people use other routes.
- Need strategic view eg if less traffic through the village puts more traffic into Marsh Barton it will be more congested and put off employers.
- New station is not park and ride.
- Alternative transport is essential for future eg cycle and walk.
- Enforce existing weight limits on Chudleigh Road. VN says there is a current strategy being developed to restrict HGVs. VN will get information.
- German cities – high polluting cars not permitted in city centre. Dr Benson (Chudleigh Road) will get some information for us.
- What information is available on success of other new rail stations? Eg, – Digby 300K+ users.

- Planned bus changes – B extended through Marsh Barton on to Exminster – possibly linking with new Marsh Barton rail station. More work being done.
- What is happening about Park and Ride at Newberry's? – Planning to be submitted.
- Bus fares from park and ride should be same as fares from adjacent areas. Currently subsidises car users, VN to investigate. VN DCC sets charges for park and ride fares and will find out how calculated.
- New houses available to all for private purchase but affordable houses only will be for "local people".
- Houses adjacent to existing residential areas will be similar density to existing. This will push up density on south side of development site.
- Look at Cranbrook for strategic views, how problems can be resolved and how this may help Alphington.
- 90% of Alphington villagers originally did not want any new houses.
- Cranbrook not a good comparison as new community with no pre-existing problems – generally the floor agreed.

#### **4.0 SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

4.0.1 The next workshop will be on this topic. Comments from meeting on each heading

#### **4.1 Schools**

- Existing school full – plans to extend regardless of new houses – traffic access a problem.
- VN – Baby boom – no spaces at primary level West of Exe – traffic is a major concern. Possible extension works will start September 2013.
- New Teignbridge school not planned to be built until 2018 at earliest.
- Don't want to see loss of green space at Alphington school to provide for extensions.
- More parking restrictions planned near the school.
- What about measures to reduce speed in Ide Lane, eg bumps?
- VN to find out about numbers of pupils.
- Rob Crew said development will be progressive, which may allow time to build new schools.
- Rod Ruffle – suggests Alphington development could be slowed and Teignbridge brought forward to help this problem.

**4.2 Health**

Juliet has spoken with Ide Lane Surgery practice manager, very busy but could be expanded

**4.3 Shops**

1970's plan included many more shops – never provided.

**4.4 Community Centre**

Is getting funding for improvements

**4.5 District Heating**

Using heat from incinerator for houses but problems with infrastructure and cost – circa 5 years.

**4.6 Air Pollution**

No further comment beyond those relating to traffic.

**4.7 Utilities**

No comment.

**4.8 Recycling**

No Comment.

**5.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

5.0.1 AGM – 26 February 2013 (No Councillors will be available to attend)