

# Wimborne Civic Society

## Planning Report for the 2022 AGM

The pandemic has caused challenges for the Planning Committee. Before the pandemic, the committee recruited 2 new members, Marilyn Osner and Minna Harvey following the retirement or moving from the area of Pam Shrub, Stanley Jackson, Rosemary Rooke and Sue Maunder. EDDC had stopped making paper plans available for scrutiny and so the group was meeting in homes to view applications on-line. This was not possible once the pandemic hit and left just Stephen Protheroe and myself with the capability to access the plans. So since the start of the pandemic that is what we have done; sharing our views on applications by email.

Stephen and I have continued to review the applications in the Society's area of interest which largely coincides with the BH21 post code. Applications have continued to be largely extensions to existing properties.

We have commented on a few of those we consider to be inappropriate in the locality; either because of scale or design. We have generally been supportive of applications to sever land and infill. Any such properties reduce the need to use Green Belt land for the building of badly needed houses. We have, however, commented when the proposed density is too great. We have objected to the illumination of new shop signs outside trading hours and the presence of A boards on the pavement in the High Street.

John Worth has already covered the Society's scrutiny of the Dorset and BCP Local Plans and our objection to building on the Green Belt that provides a buffer between Wimborne and BCP. Part of BCP's current and Poole's previous local Plan has included building 650 homes on land North of Merley. Sadly an application for this has been approved despite massive opposition.

Ensors have sold the old Market area to McCarthy and Stone who have approval for a retirement village on the site. We were involved in discussions with McCarthy and Stone on the design and were disappointed when initially the application was refused for technical reasons. These are usually resolved with the LPA before refusal. A resubmission was successful.

Following announcement of closure of the market just before Christmas, Ensors applied to convert a field next to Lake Gates roundabout for use as a "showground", a public amenity space and to accommodate the market. This field was the site of a roman fort and is a Scheduled Historic Monument in the Green Belt. Following objections particularly by Historic England, the Society and more than 90 others the application was withdrawn.

When it became clear that the market on the old site would close, the Society worked with stall holders, town council and eventually the Allendale Centre to find a new site in the centre of Wimborne. This resulted in the re-opening of the market immediately after Christmas in and around the Allendale Centre. Though reduced from 3 days, it is operating there very successfully every Friday. The numbers of stalls and customers are still increasing.

The Planning Committee will continue to review the applications in the coming year. We are pleased that Bryan Hoile, a new member of the Society has agreed to join Stephen and me in that.