

AGM 2024 Planning Report

The Planning sub-Committee has continued to meet throughout the year. Following the co-option of Julia and Andrew Pilborough onto the Society's main committee, Andrew has joined the team, where we have looked at the planning applications in the Society's area of interest which roughly coincides with BH21.

There have been 578 applications in the year, and of those we have looked in detail at about 1/3. We have commented to the Local Planning Authority on 15 of these applications. The reasons for the comments are mostly because the proposed applications are inappropriate in their location. For example, it was proposed that the bungalow next door to Pam Shrubbs should have another storey added in an area which is wholly bungalows. It would have dwarfed and overlooked all of these. We generally welcome the splitting of large gardens and the building of new properties in the space. It gives additional properties without the need to break into open greenspace. However, there are some proposals which would result in overcrowding and so we comment on these. There has been an application for a change to the frontage of what was Quba in the High Street. Though we commented that we welcome an improved look, we hoped that the illuminated signs would be switched off outside trading hours.

Then there is the field at the end of Birchdale Road. This field was in the now abandoned Dorset Plan for development as WMC06. It has since been removed from consideration because of its ecological value and because it is one of the few areas of Green Belt remaining between Wimborne and Colehill. Anyway, a company from Cheshire has put in an application to Dorset to develop an estate of 59 houses on this site. We, along with several hundred others, have objected to this. We await the determination.

Stephen Protheroe, Andrew Pilborough, Bryan Hoile and I continue the process of monitoring all these applications, trying to promote responsible development while discouraging things that would be detrimental. In particular we object to anymore large-scale development until the infrastructure catches up with the pressures created by the large numbers of extra houses built in the area over recent years.

For the last year, we have had representation at the Town Council's Planning and Environment Committee. We can express our views but not vote. I have been pleased at the efforts being made to provide more pedestrian crossings and calm the traffic in the town, but also frustrated at the lack of ability to implement these schemes without Dorset Councils involvement.

The Planning and Environment Committee have also been encouraging in our progress to drawing up a list of candidates for Local Heritage Listing which you will hear more about later.