

## Jonty Wild

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**From:** Jonty Wild <jontywild@pirton.org.uk>  
**Sent:** 07 January 2015 22:32  
**Subject:** Pirton Website: Last Night's Parish Council's Public Meeting  
**Attachments:** 20150107 Let Peter Lilley.pdf

I did not count the attendees, but there was an excellent turn out at last night's Parish Council organised public meeting. I will try to summarise the main points (*briefly*) that I, as an individual, took away from the meeting. Doubtless there will be more related emails to be sent over the coming few weeks before the closure of NHDC's Preferred Options consultation (6/2/2015) and the consultation period for the outline planning application for 77 houses on Priors Hill (no date yet).

Jonty Wild  
[www.pirton.org.uk](http://www.pirton.org.uk)  
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### **From the brief presentation of the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire analysis.**

Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire analysis – obviously these are only the briefest and most relevant of the details:

- The response rate for the questionnaire was amazing - 80% from households and 76% from adults (16+). This gives the result an extraordinary level of validity and a convincing mandate with which to try and influence NHDC and the Local Plan.
- Rather than just saying no to development, our community has given the matter proper consideration and have indicated an acceptance of a reasonable level of growth for Pirton, which we think would work for us.
- The consensus is that the community would be willing to accept 48 new houses, rather than the 135 proposed.
- They should be built evenly across the 20 year period of the local plan.
- There is a very strong preference for individual, smaller sites rather than large ones.
- Most prefer the houses to be in the form of infill or a mixture of infill and outside the current boundary.

### **From Cllr David Levett's presentation on the Local Plan Preferred Options and the sites for development identified in Pirton:**

- The need for development is Government led policy, with which NHDC must comply.
- The sites identified for development are developer led and not the result of any positive strategy to identify suitable sustainable sites by NHDC.
- The community could still identify alternative, perhaps more suitable, sites.
- Although previous objections have been considered, they have been overridden, so if you want your views to count you must make new submissions and they should be based on proper planning considerations, e.g. sustainability, infrastructure, impact.
- Given the Government's enforced policy of "*presumption in favour of sustainable development*", it is going to be difficult to identify grounds which would prevent other development, within the existing or proposed village boundary, i.e. over and above what is finally accepted as Pirton's allocation towards the NHDC total target
- If the proposed village boundary changes are accepted, then that will leave the door open for even more housing to be proposed.
- There is little we can do to stop all the development occurring early in the Local Plan period rather than as an even spread of development – *personally I am less convinced that this is true*

### **Other:**

- Pirton's proposed allocation would be an increase of 27% in house numbers, which is the largest increase of any comparable village.

- It is important to fight any battle on numbers and boundaries as part of the Preferred Options consultation, as numbers in the Local Plan will almost certainly take precedence over those in a Neighbourhood Plan.
- It is very important that we get the very best Neighbourhood Plan that we can and as soon as possible.
- The submission for outline planning permission for Priors Hill is an attempt to ensure that the developer gets their wish irrespective of the Preferred Options consultation.

**Actions:** If we are concerned, then it is very important to:

- To make representations on the Outline Planning Application for Priors Hill by Court Homes before the date (to be confirmed), but details are [here](#).
- Make representations on the Preferred Options consultation, i.e. before 6<sup>th</sup> February 2015 – details at [here](#).
- To positively engage with any forthcoming or further consultation by the Pirton Neighbourhood Plan Steer Group.

On a personal note I am so frustrated by the apparent lack of a proper strategy by NHDC to positively engage with the community, as opposed to developers, in order to identify suitable sustainable sites. Also with the Government's single, enforced policy, of "*presumption in favour of sustainable development*", which apparently overwhelms almost all other considerations. As a result I have written to our MP, Peter Lilley, to express my views. I have attached my letter, and perhaps you might wish to do the same or, if in fact you agree with what I have said, or any of it, tell him so? His address is on the letter and his contact email address is [lilleyp@parliament.uk](mailto:lilleyp@parliament.uk), perhaps copied to [feedback@peterlilley.co.uk](mailto:feedback@peterlilley.co.uk).