

**A MEETING OF THE HOUSING BOARD
WAS HELD ON 19 MARCH 2021**

Councillor Hook

Councillors Mrs Batty, Beavis, Burgess, Mrs Cully, Hammond, Hutchison, Mrs Jones, Mitchell, Mrs Morgan, Murphy, Pepper, Philpott, Scard and Westerby

27. SOCIAL & AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE

Councillor Hammond declared that part of the application was within his ward and that he was considering the proposals with an open mind.

Councillor Hook declared an interest at the point at which a proposed development in Grove Road was discussed as the Thorngate Trust were in discussions about it.

Consideration was given to a report by the Head of Housing regarding the programme of new social and affordable homes within the Borough, seeking approval to change the sites which are earmarked to form the first tranche of development.

Members welcomed the proposals and advised that it reflected the Council's long held view that brownfield sites should be used first when constructing new properties and reinforced that green space in areas was not under threat.

In answer to a Member's question, the Board was advised that Officers were confident that the nitrates issues would be mitigated. In addition it was advised that the deadlines for the properties would be met and the proposal for the Council houses for Gosport residents was welcome.

It was confirmed that the report had not been available for the cancelled meeting of the Board and that sites for additional houses were yet to be identified.

Members expressed concern that the public may not understand the definition of Greenfield sites, and also sought clarification of where in the roads listed the sites were. The Chairman advised that he would ensure a press release was released advising of the locations and reiterating the definition of the brownfield sites.

A Member advised that they had suggested some alternative sites and was advised they had been noted and were on the local plan.

The Board were advised that the recommendations made at Community Board in January 2020 were made to allow for a feasibility study and that this had taken place and had identified the corporate policy of using brownfield sites first. Green infill sites with no recreational value would also be looked at before difficult sites.

Members were requested to bring any sites they felt suitable forward, and in addition the local plan was being reviewed and it would provide more opportunity. In particular a scheme in Grove Road was being developed.

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A Member advised that in addition to constructing 16 houses, another 16 properties had been bought by the Council and they advised that they were continually receiving requests, particular in the Bridgemaury area for new Council housing to allow families to stay and live closer together.

A Member advised that although the spaces were defined as brownfield, they looked like outdoor open space, and on Google Maps areas were shown as outdoor space.

A Member advised the Board that they wished for a proposal to be put forward to consider each site individually, and wished to see negatives and positives for each site. This was proposed and seconded

Members felt that the Board Members should have looked at all the sites prior to the meeting and expressed concern that Members would vote against a proposal if it fell within their ward, for political reasons. A Member reminded the Board they were there to make difficult decisions and that there were currently 1000 families on the waiting list for Council properties and that by ignoring the difficult decisions, the situations would not improve.

Members advised that they had had the opportunity to discuss the sites with the Head of Housing prior to the meeting and was comfortable with the proposals and that putting the plans with the proposals may have caused confusion at this stage.

Members welcomed the work the Officer's had undertaken in identifying much needed sites for families in need.

Members were reminded that the details of the proposal was ultimately for the Regulatory Board to consider and that this application was for approval of the first tranche and that the Council was obligated to try and find homes for families that needed them.

The proposed amendment was subsequently withdrawn.

RESOLVED:

That the Board approved the amended first tranche of development sites.

28. ANY OTHER ITEMS

CHAIRMAN

There were none.

Concluded at 6.33 pm