



David Harris
Leader of Weymouth
Town Council

Dear Residents of Preston

As you know from the numerous Focus leaflets you have received from us, especially when you were represented by Brian Ellis and David Mannings, we have always tried to give you positive news of what we have done rather than be critical of others.

Unfortunately, a recent newsletter circulated by your Conservative councillors calling a meeting of residents, had so much wrong information in it about the Neighbourhood Plan we have had to communicate with you to put the facts right. No decisions or plans have been proposed but a third consultation, asking for comments through a survey of opinions, was being undertaken by the neighbourhood planning steering group.

Weymouth has 1700 people on its housing waiting list. Consultation by the Neighbourhood Plan steering group suggested the provision of Affordable Housing was the most important issue for the Town.

Potential sites which might be used were identified by the housing sub-group and the present survey asked all residents and land-owners what they think about these sites

- *The plan is being produced under a Steering Group comprising 6 ordinary residents and 4 councillors, one of whom represents Preston-not the Lib Dem led town council!*
- *Further consultation, including with Dorset Council (DC) who, as well as being the statutory body own many of the sites, and then reviewing all feedback, will lead to a final draft plan which can be commented on.*
- *It then comes back to ALL Weymouth residents to approve, or not, in a referendum sometime in 2024. It is **NOT a TOWN COUNCIL** decision, **but a residents' decision!!!***

The steering group was not proposing major developments but was asking residents of Weymouth to consider different sites around the town, including Wyke Oliver Farm and land above Budmouth Ave, **among others**, to address this need for Affordable Housing (and Local Employment sites, and Open Green spaces), as part of the **Site Assessment Process** and were openly seeking feedback from the whole of Weymouth. In an earlier survey residents had identified that sites for **Affordable homes for Weymouth people, (so that we could attract teachers, nurses, social care and other key workers to be able to afford to live and work locally), was a top priority.**

- *The leaflet's estimate of 500 homes on two sites in Preston was **highly inaccurate.***
- *The report actually says that the two sites could provide between 168 and 191 Homes which is on the NP website*
- *The old tip at Lodmoor, owned by DC, with a Preston councillor being the cabinet member for assets, was being considered for affordable housing with a figure of between 105 and 140 homes – **NOT the 500 mentioned in the newsletter.***



The leaflet also says 'they want to remove about 500 parking spaces from the Town, never mind the impact on business.' **Again not true.** The steering group are considering two car parks for housing. Both of the NP reports say that alternative parking provision would need to be made. Such opportunities are actively being discussed within DC Housing team and formed part of the DC Transport Levelling Up Fund bid, submitted by Dorset Council. They want to reinvigorate the Mount Pleasant Park & Ride with a proper dedicated bus service picking up in the Park & Ride with the benefit of releasing carpark(s) in the town centre for development. It is very disappointing that some cabinet members in DC do not seem to talk to each other.

A Neighbourhood Plan is drawn up by residents, voted on by residents and is used to help Dorset Council in its planning decisions. WTC helps support the process for the steering group and this is the third opportunity all residents have had a chance to be involved. It will cover the needs for all Weymouth residents.

Weymouth Lib Dems Telling you the truth

Weymouth Liberal Democrats - working hard for Weymouth

Actual News from WTC

- ♦ The council has recently installed solar panels on its three largest toilet blocks and these are already saving us producing carbon dioxide as well as money
- ♦ Although we are increasing our share of your council tax by 3% (X per week) your contribution to WTC is still below what we inherited as a council, and that is despite the present rate of inflation, thanks to efficiency savings
- ♦ Dorset Council wanted to raise the price of the contract for cleaning the beach and removing the rubbish from the promenade. We have renegotiated the figure downwards quite considerably by looking closely at the savings possible
- ♦ Events and other services you expect from WTC are continuing as normal despite the inflation

Liberal Democrats - standing up for Weymouth residents

Standards Matter: Can you help us regain them?

We all know of the low standards being shown by Government ministers since the moment Boris Johnson drove a big red bus promising massive investments in the Health Service. In May 2024 there will be elections for Dorset Council and Weymouth Town Council. The Conservatives only have a majority of 4 on Dorset Council, yet the cabinet has only conservatives on it, all except 1 living over the ridgeway and they only polled % in the last election. We are confident they will lose the election in 2024 and then we can bring in more democracy by having the Management Committee reflecting the balance of parties in the council. Weymouth Town Council already encourages everyone to be involved in the decision making process. Would you like to be part of this change in approach, encouraging everyone to work together in the best interests of residents? Would you like to know about standing for either council, or just helping us get people elected who believe in real democracy. Please get in touch and someone will come and talk with you about options.



PUTTING THE COMMUNITY BEFORE POLITICS

The help team

Contact your local Liberal Democrat Team who are always keen to hear from you
David Harris, leader of Lib Dems on WTC cllr davidharris@weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk
Nick Ireland, leader of Lib Dems on DC cllrnick.ireland@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
"Other Lib Dem councillors can be found on the respective DC and WTC web pages."

If you respond to this leaflet with your contact details, the Liberal Democrats, locally and nationally, may use information provided, including your political views, to further our objectives, share it with our elected representatives and/or contact you in future using any of the means provided. Some contacts may be automated. You may opt out of some or all contacts or exercise your other legal rights by contacting us. Further details are in our Privacy Policy at www.libdems.org.uk/privacy.



Always acting for YOU