

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at 6.30pm in Eyke Village Hall.

**Present:** Cllr Fleming, in the chair, Cllr Stangoe, Cllr Whitmore, the clerk, and six members of the public, including Mr Peter Robinson, the owner of the land for proposed development in Eyke.

**Apologies:** Cllrs Abu-Hejleh, Cushing, Howlett-Thomson and Thomas.

As this was an extraordinary meeting to discuss and prepare a response to the *Suffolk Coastal Local Plan: First Draft* no minutes were read, nor other business considered.

The part of the plan of particular interest to local residents is the potential development of land to the south of Eyke Primary School and east of The Street, where a suggested 45 mixed housing units could be built. In order to take account of the feelings of the members of the public present, the chairman declared an open forum.

The clerk read a statement from Mr Robinson, which assured the parish that as yet no developer is involved with the site, and nothing will happen until the allocation is confirmed in the final version of the local plan. If it goes ahead, he would be keen to involve the parish. He sees the possible development as an asset to the village, which would provide housing, including affordable homes for young people, and would allow the village to grow in a natural way.

A particular concern of those present was what is meant by affordable housing. Cllr Stangoe had attended the drop-in session at East Suffolk House, and had not received a satisfactory response to that question.

Also raised was the cost of additional building at the school, which is already operating close to capacity.

Questions were raised about the infrastructure required to cope with any development, not just within Eyke but across the Suffolk Coastal area. The road network struggles already, and 45 houses in Eyke could mean conservatively at least 70 more vehicles in the village. Cllr Stangoe understood from her visit to East Suffolk House that there was no provision to improve infrastructure. Cllr Cushing endorsed this in a written response.

Concerns were raised over the visual impact of the site. Mr Robinson suggested that there could be some parish input into the design. He also pointed out that the plan would allow for about 6 houses per acre, not 10 which is standard.

The feeling of the meeting was that while it is necessary to accept more houses within the village, 45 is too many.

Cllrs Cushing and Abu-Hejleh had attended a meeting with planners to discuss the Local Plan. In their absence, the clerk read Cllr Cushing's written response. It was clear that the Draft Local Plan deals only with new housing developments and not with the provision or enhancement of infrastructure to cope with the pressures of an increased population. With particular regard to Eyke, he felt development is to be expected and accepted, but that twenty houses would be a more manageable number.

It was agreed that the response to Suffolk Coastal District Council would include:

- strong reservations about whether the general infrastructure in the Suffolk Coastal area could cope with the increased population without significant input;
- an acceptance of a development in Eyke, but with fewer than 45 houses;
- a requirement that the development would include affordable housing suitable for young people.

The meeting closed at 7.25pm.

