

## Results of Parish Council survey 2008/09

In December 2008 the Parish Council was approached by a group of Albury residents and asked to officially contest the proposed development at High Hall. In delicate matters such as this we are keen to represent all the village and therefore felt that we had to ask the people of Albury whether they wanted us to stand against or for this Affordable Housing development at High Hall. In early January every household received a prepaid card with a clear YES , NO or NO OPINION option to tick. With the card was a short letter to explain that the PC would not act on behalf of the Save Albury From Expansion group WITHOUT the parishioner's approval. On the card people were also given the opportunity to leave their name and address ( optional ) as well as space to comment with a deadline of January 31<sup>st</sup>.

By February 2<sup>nd</sup> at our first Parish Council meeting this year we had received 143 responses ( out of 230 )

**68 %** voted for YES ( PC to act on behalf of the Save Albury From Expansion and AGAINST the development at HIGH HALL )

**29%** voted for NO ( PC not to stand against proposed development at High Hall )

**3%** had ticked the box of NO OPINION

I took the time and analysed the information we have received from those cards as follows :

### **AGAINST THE DEVELOPMENT comments made :**

Clearly the majority of people in Albury ARE NOT HAPPY with the proposed site at High Hall and felt that the Parish Council must act on their behalf.

- 40 of those who voted against the project DO NOT LIVE in or around the area of High Hall and therefore would not be affected by such a new development themselves.
- 9 felt that it was the site at High Hall that was the problem
- 4 do not want to see any new developments within the green belt area
- 6 feel that a lack of infrastructure in Albury would not benefit Affordable Housing schemes

- 8 feared that such a development would increase the burden of traffic problems even further
- 1 was very concerned about the spoilt views and appearance of the village
- 1 was alarmed that one such development would set a precedence for even more schemes
- 5 wanted to save Albury's real village character
- 1 is worried that the development would decrease Albury's popularity
- 2 were extremely alert to the fact that this development is likely to attract people who have absolute no connections with Albury and outsiders who have no interest in enriching village life.
- 6 were not at all convinced that a need for such a development has been established
- 1 feels so strongly about it that they feel no other way but sadly having to leave Albury if this project was allowed to go ahead
- 1 suggests that we should better concentrate on improving our infrastructure such as bringing back the long gone post office
- 1 had concerns with environmental issues for newly build housing
- 1 said that the village school is full to capacity and could not take in any more children

**For THE DEVELOPMENT comments made :**

- Only 13 voting for the development were happy to give their name or address
- Not a single one of those lives in or close to the proposed site, with 3 at Patmore Heath at the closest.
- 15 felt very strongly that ANY Affordable Housing must be given to people with a proven link or connection to Albury ONLY
- 1 demands that the Parish Council must have nomination rights
- 2 feel that a small Affordable Housing Scheme would be welcome but it must NOT set any precedent for further development
- 1 felt that one pressure group protesting against the development is enough
- 1 felt that the problem started when Council Houses were sold off
- 1 is convinced that we cannot escape expansion
- 1 rather goes along with Affordable Housing than a government compulsory purchase for a traveller's site
- 2 think that Affordable Housing is necessary for the future of the school in expensive villages
- 1 welcomes the range of different houses a project like this might offer
- 1 is of the opinion that too many PC members might have a personal interest in this ( The Affordable Housing issue is being dealt with by the 3 members who DO NOT live in the area concerned and would not be affected by the development , the remaining 2 have no input in any discussions or decisions )

We hope that the collected information will be shown the consideration it deserves as we all act in the best interest for our village community.

We understand Aldwyck's desire to build a new development and as an alternative to Albury village itself would like to draw your attention to an Albury resident who has approached the PC with the willingness to sell prime development land within the area of Albury/ Little Hadham. We have passed on the potential vendor's details to Aldwyck Affordable Housing for further investigation.

I would like to thank everybody who has taken the time to return the card as it clearly has helped our decision making process. Your opinion and comments matter to us !

Brigitte Webster  
Albury Parish Council