

Update on the Aldwyck Affordable Housing Scheme matter in Albury

In December 2007 Albury Parish Council conducted a survey to consolidate the views of all residents in Albury about the proposed affordable housing project at High Hall. Of all 250 letters sent out to every household in Albury the Parish Council received 10 replies : 9 opposing and 1 supporting the scheme.

From the data collected, the outcome showed opposition of this particular site for the following reasons :

- i. Saving green field sites from development to safeguard the rural character of Albury
- ii. Lack of infrastructure nearby
- iii. Dangerous access onto a busy road with a blind corner
- iv. Lack of footpath
- v. Loss of sunlight during winter months for properties directly opposite the site

Opposition was also expressed to the idea of new build affordable housing due to :

- i. Lack of evidence for an established need
- ii. Too few amenities within the village
- iii. Infrequent public transport links
- iv. No realistic employment opportunities inside or near the village
- v. Increase of motor traffic on an already over-used country lane
- vi. Fear of new housing estates on an even bigger scale
- vii. Concern about Albury losing its charming village character and rural views

The following reasons were given in support of the scheme at High Hall:

- i.) The site only being used as a dumping ground for unattractive farm machinery for at least 23 years and possibly longer
- ii.) Fear for future of Albury school as a number of villagers choose to send their children to schools outside the village, leaving Albury school reliant upon children from outside the area.

The search for an available and more suitable, safer site with a lesser impact on Albury's rural character proved unsuccessful and Aldwyck Affordable Housing have now informed us about the imminent submission of their planning application for 8 proposed units. (2 two bedroom bungalows, 2 two bedroom houses, 2 three bedroom houses and 2 two bedroom maisonettes)

If you have any comments about this development you may make them in the usual manner by writing to
Kevin Steptoe, Head of Planning and Building Control
East Herts Council
Wallfields, Pegs Lane
Hertford, Herts. SG13 8EQ

or by writing to me at Albury Parish Council,
Parsonage Farm, Parsonage Lane, Albury or e-mail me at
Brigitte.webster@btinternet.com

Plans for the proposed project at High Hall may be viewed at the village hall as soon as the Parish Council receives them. Please check notice boards and the Albury website for details as there will be a limited time period in which you may express your concern.

Brigitte Webster
Chair of Affordable Housing Project
Albury Parish Council