

Motion 1 - Cllr Helen Sumblar puts forward this Motion.

Corfe Castle Parish Council adds its name to the list of supporters of the Dorset Deserves Better campaign.

The following is a summary provided by Giles Watts of Dorset CAN. The Dorset Deserves Better Campaign is Dorset-based alliance of local Dorset-based organisations with the aim of persuading Dorset Council to re-think the draft Local Plan for the benefit of the people of Dorset. We have three main requests:

1. Housing development is defined by specific local needs and not driven by blunt national targets. We recognise that Dorset needs more housing but we would like to see more careful thought put into where these houses are placed and who they are serving. Endless building over Greenfield land can be very harmful to the environment, landscape and historic spaces while increasing the carbon footprint if they are not built to sufficient standards or encourage further car use. Instead, we would like to see Dorset Council concentrating on sustainable levels of development with an emphasis on brownfield housing sites first.
2. We want to see a greater emphasis on affordable housing, social housing and quality low-rent housing. Providing affordable housing purely through private developers is not effective and many of such dwellings are not really affordable. Instead, we advocate the release of some land (including Council-owned land) released at below market levels to community land trusts and housing associations and some land for self-build schemes.
3. The Local Plan needs to be underpinned by, and consistent with, our Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy. We must drive down our carbon emissions over time and this means structural changes in the way we live and our use of the environment. There needs to be a greater emphasis on reducing our carbon footprint through higher energy efficiency and better reuse of materials; more local renewable energy generation; higher standards for building materials, better insulation avoiding future retrofitting; use of heat pumps instead of gas boilers; and the siting of housing developments in locations which can make use of existing services and infrastructure.

The Dorset Deserves Better Campaign is meant to be a constructive, non-political campaign where we work closely with Dorset Council to build a better Local Plan that serves the people of Dorset but to do this we need the support of as many organisations as possible across Dorset. Currently, we are supported by 57 Dorset-based organisations including 16 Town and Parish councils representing 86,000 people (18% of the population).