

COMMENTS FROM ALAN THOMPSON (COMMUNITY MONITOR) 13 Dec 2016

I have not had the benefit of attending your meetings for a while as I have been away. How they have changed in their structure and discussion!

Everyone took part in a very interesting discussion which stuck to the agenda. The enthusiasm and hard work put into the project was very obvious.

POINTS FOR YOUR DISCUSSION

Apologies if you have discussed these at a previous meeting or intend to in the future. From what was said I did not think you had.

My impression of the meeting was that the emphasis was totally about the planning for residential sites and to a lesser degree industrial sites.

The two main "contentious" sites (your description) was the Football Field and School. I appreciate the remarks made that you should not suggest alternatives for these sites,

The removal of the Football Field and Willink Field for sports use is a non-starter for various reasons, unless alternative land is available. e.g. Charity commission rules, public opinion. It could result in the N.P being rejected by the public.

We will never keep everyone happy with the proposals but the above two sites for housing will be very contentious without alternatives. I agree the Willink field is now less contentious, in my opinion, because it has been explained to the public that it has to be replaced elsewhere in the village.

Also SLDC have stated to me that no residential building would be allowed on the Cricket Club side of the railway line, only building for community and sport.

Sport is a very important part of the N.P. and I am very disappointed that despite the encouragement from the Parish Council etc there is very little interest from the all the sports clubs in the plan.

If it has not already been considered, I think buildings to be used by all the clubs and communities should be considered alongside residential sites. Most are unfit for modern day use by disabled groups, children etc.

Could the cricket club be involved to look at their building and land, if they planned the building now would they build something completely different, also it's future possible use by Tennis and Bowling clubs. These clubs have worked together in the past. This would increase the revenue of the Cricket Club which they badly need.

Also a community theatre, sports hall and Football changing rooms on the football side of Hollins.

The group have suggested changing the use of the school etc. but have not included The Bryce Institute and car park.

Some might say I have a past interest in this suggestion. I have listened to the Steering Group and have learnt from them, especially in regard to the more radical changes suggested.