

**Wiltshire Council**

**Cabinet**

**14 July 2020**

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**Statement from Margaret Willmot**

**Agenda Item 15 – Stone Circle Company Business Plans**

**To Cllr Pauline Church Cabinet Member for Finance, Procurement and Commercial Investment**

**Statement**

Wiltshire Council are to be commended that, as reported at item agenda 8 on the Climate Emergency, *“The council’s Housing Board is committed to building 1,000 new council homes over the next 10 years to a zero carbon standard.”*

It is very disappointing therefore that the Stone Circle Business Plan announces that they do not propose carbon neutral development as this would require additional development cost which could reduce returns to shareholders.

The ‘UK Housing: Fit for the Future?’ report produced by the Committee on Climate Change in Feb 2019<sup>i</sup> recommended that *“New homes should deliver ultra-high levels of energy efficiency as soon as possible and by 2025 at the latest”* and also commented that *“Designing in these features from the start is around one-fifth of the cost of retrofitting to the same quality and standard.”*

In February 2019 a meeting of Full Council said it believed that *“It is important for the residents of Wiltshire that its Council commits to reducing CO2 emissions and works towards carbon neutrality as quickly as possible”*. This should surely apply equally to companies which are owned and managed by the Council and I hope you will therefore be minded to insist that Stone Circle acts in accordance with the Council’s commitments and builds to a zero carbon standard.

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/UK-housing-Fit-for-the-future-CCC-2019.pdf>