

Wiltshire Council

Full Council

21 May 2024

Item 7 - Public Participation

From Denise Harvey

**To Cllr Nick Botterill - Cabinet Member for Finance, Development Management,
and Strategic Planning**

Question (P24-11)

I read in 'The Times' (early May), that many councils are taking advantage of Michael Gove's planning changes by reducing the number of homes they intend to allow to be built in the future.

Bearing in mind that I understand that Wiltshire Council's 'Local Plan' is currently being prepared for inspection (later this year or early 2025), I would like to know has Wiltshire Council reduced the number of houses it wishes to see built (in line with other Councils?).

In particular, has it reviewed its current 'stated' policy in order to prevent Hilperton being swamped with hundreds more new houses – remembering that the parish has recently had (another) approx. 400 houses given planning permission?

It feels as if Hilperton is seen as an 'easy' target by the planners at Wiltshire Council, and it would be reassuring to know that Wiltshire Council has reduced the number of houses in the Local Plan for Hilperton

Response

The response to the consultation and submission of the Local Plan will be considered by Cabinet and Council in October this year. The headline number of new homes identified in the draft Local Plan 2020- 2038 is 36,740 homes, which is considerably lower than the level of 45,630 homes consulted on in 2021. It appears from the changes announced by the Secretary of State that only in a small number of exceptional circumstances (not relevant locally) can authorities determine that they can plan for a lower number of homes than the government's standard method.