

Billie Brown (BB) came to the meeting to ask about membership. She became concerned about 'subscriptions' after seeing the term on social media. BB contributed £10 about 6 years ago to join. FM explained the initial money is money paid in share capital.

6) Housing need

The group discussed the 5000 (approx.) applicants currently on the housing register. In Dorchester, there are currently 582 residents on the housing register. Several factors including reductions in the private sector and the cost-of-living crisis are leading to increasing number of people applying to the housing register.

In North Dorset, lots of affordable housing is being built. This is due to its position outside the Area of Natural Beauty (AONB) and lack of nutrient neutrality conflict.

7) Additional Housing discussion

a) Housing in Dorchester

Around 63 new affordable housing has been built in Dorchester behind Hancock House specifically for key workers.

Discussion was had about affordable housing being delivered at Brewery Square. The group agreed that rent takings and choice of tenants should rest with Dorset Council. Dorset Council understand it is difficult to facilitate social rent but are aware that is what the need is for.

Dorchester Town Council are looking into the opportunity to develop 1st, 2nd, and 3rd floors of town centre shop buildings. However, many buildings on South Street are listed and are therefore unsuitable, or too expensive to adapt. PD to put ES in touch with the Dorset Council (DC) officer to discuss this.

b) New CLT sites

TM reported she had put in a bid for a small piece of land off Garfield Avenue.

c) Premier Inn

ES informed group of Premier Inn's public consultation (Wed 6th Sept 2-7pm, the old M&S building). There will be an online consultation if people cannot attend. The new Premier Inn is estimated to bring in £3 million worth of income to Dorchester.

8) Future Meetings

Next meeting to be confirmed by TM.

Paul Derrien

Tricia Mitchell