

The whole Awliscombe Parish Council is positive about the plans drawn up for Honiton but we are concerned about the proposed development to the west of Heathpark. This will of course have a huge impact on the hamlet of Weston which is part of Awliscombe Parish. It already suffers a huge amount of traffic as a cut through to avoid Honiton. The allocated 15 hectares does seem to be a large area to specify considering there is unused sites within the existing Heathpark Estate and we can see better use of the land allocated west to be used for the community and for the need of sports and recreational areas. Not only would the traffic in Weston become a problem, but also large vehicles using the A373 through Awliscombe to access the new industrial estate would become a problem unless they are instructed to use the A30. If the large development is to go ahead as planned and shown in this consultation then we as a Parish Council would ask that special attention needs to be given to Weston for the potential traffic issues and also the impact on the landscape.

Awliscombe Parish Council were pleased to see that the amount of homes allocated to the village had been set at 20. Although we are a small community the village needs to be able to grow to allow for local housing for local people. We are concerned about the 'built up area boundary' as ours is particularly tight and this would need to be relaxed to be able to accommodate the requested need for new houses. The village itself is far greater than the enclosed boundary as it stands at the moment. We as a community have many aspirations for the future including a new village hall, community playing field and a football pitch which is within the hub of the community. Although we have put forward ideas to enhance the community we are also very aware of the countryside in which we wish to keep as a rural village.

Awliscombe Parish Council (including Weston) have already carried out a Housing Needs Survey and have found a need for Mixed Market and Affordable Housing and we found that there is a need for 8 within the next 5 years. At this time we are looking at exception sites due to the 'built up area boundary' It is the wish of the Parish Council and parishioners that these are for the local people not only for the younger generation but for the elderly and disabled.

Awliscombe Parish Council totally agree with the Preferred Approach regarding the use of developments to sustain and diversify agricultural buildings. We are fortunate to be in an area which has strong farming and agricultural based businesses but it is necessary to keep family members living in the area so as to keep these businesses going. We as a community have tried and failed many times in trying to convert existing barns and buildings for residential use for this need and section 15.25 is a 'must' for planning policy, not only for the sustainability of local family businesses but also to curtail the need for 'new builds'. This also applies to the use of redundant farm buildings for small business use. There is also many other local businesses that would benefit from sustainable development and we encourage this in our rural community in keeping with surroundings.