

Employment (Policies ELS and E)

6.1

Unfortunately there is no clear economic vision and strategy for Swanage (S.E Purbeck) there is little being done to encourage sustainable growth as NPPF paragraph 21 advises. It would seem the unique socio economic profile of its habitants as it stands have not been taken into account and indeed the proposed 37.5% allocation of houses would mean 1.5 working adults per household (900 households) would need jobs? That equals either increased unemployment or huge pressure on our existing infrastructure (the A351, poor public transport and a ferry that has a minimal capacity to cross over to Sandbanks) as those with jobs in larger conurbations and outlying areas with more employment commute. Also really an eco friendly in terms of increased fuel emissions as more people commute.

6.2

Worth noting that on last checking, Dorset County Councils own website showed that in the years 2009, 98 people were unemployed, in 2010 this was 94, however these figures precede the worst of government and council cutbacks and economic contraction. They also show a predominance of male un-employment. Even more stark are the figures published for the towns overall employment patterns which in 2009 were, of those with jobs - 55% in full-time and 45% part-time. Also as a seaside town seasonal work will play a part leaving some working age people unemployed for months at a time until the tourist season begins. All the above categorically show that for Swanage no opportunities for additional employment provision had been properly assessed. As for Prospect Business Park which had been extolled as a long awaited addition to the town and one that would mean diversity in employment and a more robust economy. It remains an undeveloped wasteland! Alas a natural cul-de-sac such as Swanage presents with its poor infra-structure a less than attractive prospect (no pun intended) for companies that already exist in more accessible places, with distribution lines set up and running like clockwork on main roads that link seamlessly with other towns. Small and start up business are extremely unlikely to have the economic ability to take up a plot or need a plot of that size.

6.3

No, as per previous points made regarding A351, ferry and public transport.