

JANET WATTS
Writer and Journalist

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Matter 16: South East Purbeck (Policy SE)

Respondent: Janet Watts **6371**

Issue 16.2

- Discussion of the allocation of dwellings at Swanage uses the figure of 200 for these proposed dwellings, a number considered ‘not of strategic importance’.
- The Purbeck Core Strategy document ref **7.5.9** uses the figure of 900 dwellings in SE Purbeck as required to meet housing supply needs by the year 2026.
- There is no published evidence of public demand for this level of housing supply or of public approval of the planned development.
- The villages around Swanage named as additional housing locations are subject to strict development controls and can sustain only small scale growth. It is likely that with the proposed development the population of Swanage will increase by 2,000 in 15 years, for which it has neither the infrastructure nor employment opportunities.
- I therefore believe that the proposed housing development in Swanage is neither justified nor appropriate in terms of its social and environmental impact.

Issue 16.1

- I include in this issue the problem of the A 351, the only road connecting Wareham and the rest of Dorset and Hampshire with Swanage. The DPD itself has described it as ending in ‘a giant cul-de-sac’. A Planning Inspectorate report in 2002 stated that no further building should take place in Purbeck until traffic congestion on the A351 had been resolved. In fact, a severe intensification of traffic levels on this road has taken place in the intervening decade. The planned increase in population/buildings would require altering this road to cause the severely damaging environmental effect of a bigger, faster and more dangerous corridor impacting Purbeck’s historic villages and uniquely beautiful and celebrated landscape.
- The proposed policy for growth and change in this area through major housing development in Purbeck and especially in Swanage, is in my view inappropriate and unjustified in terms of its social and environmental impact.

Yours sincerely,

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