

WEST DORSET, WEYMOUTH AND PORTLAND LOCAL PLAN EXAMINATION

FURTHER STATEMENT -

MATTER 6 - ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Issue No. 6.4. Is the stance on flood risk and protection sufficiently comprehensive?

Issue No. 6.5. Has adequate consideration been given to the consequences of climate change?

Reference No. 914

WEYMOUTH CIVIC SOCIETY

Para's 7.3.2, 7.3.7 to 7.3.9, and Policy WEY 2, and Policy WEY 6, pp 82, 85-86, 88.
(Para's 2.4.1 to 2.4.14, and Policies ENV 5 and ENV 7 refer to this problem)

The extreme weather events of recent times have prompted our membership to question whether the Local Plan contains sufficiently robust policies for development control on flood-prone land and unstable coastal sites, or developments which might adversely affect such areas. Events around Christmas 2013, and indeed in previous years, are clear warning signs.

Examples of high flood risk localities within the Borough which have been, or may be, subject to development pressures include in particular the Pavilion/Ferry Terminal site and Commercial Road, from the Harbourside car park to the Town Bridge.

Outside the town centre, unstable coastal sites and those at risk of flooding include the whole north shore of Portland Harbour and beyond, from Ferrybridge to Newtons Cove, and the Overcombe/Bowleaze area, where there have been pressures to build beach-side or cliff-top residences.

We feel that recent predictions of more frequent catastrophic weather events constitute a change in the circumstances under which the plans was drawn up. We therefore consider that there should be stricter control of development in locations such as those mentioned above, or on nearby sites which would adversely affect them by contributing to flooding or land instability.