



# DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

Council Offices, 19 North Square, Dorchester, Dorset. DT1 1JF

Hilary Jordan

Corporate Manager - Planning (Community and Policy Development)

West Dorset District Council

South Walks House, South Walks Road

DORCHESTER

DT1 1UZ

5 November 2018

Dear Ms Jordan,

## **NORTH DORCHESTER GARDEN COMMUNITIES BID**

You will be aware of the Town Council's position and detailed comments regarding the North Dorchester DOR15 proposal.

If, through the Local Planning process which still has some way still to go, it is ultimately determined that development should take place in the area covered by Policy DOR15, or indeed any other area adjacent to Dorchester, it is essential that it be delivered in a comprehensive way, supported by a high quality design.

Dorchester's growth over the last three decades has been driven primarily by the development of Poundbury as an urban extension to the town. It cannot be emphasised enough how the very clear vision set out at the earliest stage, supported by an equally well described masterplan set out very early on, has provided a framework that has stood the test of time.

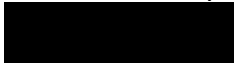
As this settlement now nears its completion its relationship to those early documents is impressive; it would be fair to claim that the Government's rekindled garden community initiative in part reflects the lead shown by Poundbury. Indeed today it would be almost unthinkable that the Councils that supported and nurtured Poundbury were not given the opportunity to repeat many of the lessons learned there in a new garden community, wherever that might be located through the Local Planning process.

It would be essential that any development strikes the appropriate balance between the provision of significant numbers of additional affordable housing through the creation of a new community whilst respecting the heritage of the area and its landscape setting, and fully integrates any community developed adjacent to Dorchester into the town itself.

Even at this stage in the planning process the Town Council would expect the planning authority to take every step to secure the benefits that would come through being recognised as a garden community.

I would therefore like to offer my wholehearted support to West Dorset District Council in its efforts to secure a successful bid to the Government's Garden Communities Programme for the provision of such a development in the Local Plan area, wherever that may eventually be.

Yours sincerely

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Adrian Stuart  
Town Clerk