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RE WEST DORSET WEYMOUTH and PORTLAND ~~and~~ Local Plan

ID 650

Examination

to An Inspector

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6/11/14

re Section 5 Housing Policy matter 4

Since statistics have changed since I wrote and I made some mistakes, I would like to re-write my statements to:

i) With the West Dorset area's need of 104 affordable houses a year, of which 65 in the silver or gold categories are in Sherborne, I am very disappointed to read that the minimum of affordable houses is to remain at 35%. In the preparation for the last Local Plan, the percentage was raised from 30 to 35%. In view of the ever increasing need and the higher percentage elsewhere (some 50% or 60%), I hoped this could be raised further in West Dorset, to begin to meet local needs. With a target of 50%, the area would still need to have 208 affordable houses built each year in W. Dorset - more attainable than the 297 needed if the ratio remained at 35%.

The number in need is not expected to cease to increase.

The National Planning Policy Framework PP174 includes "Local planning authorities should set out their policy on local standards in the Local Plan including requirements for affordable housing."

Since, at the last local plan examination, my plea for 50% and a threshold of one both failed, but the percentage was raised from 30 to 35% and now I'm delighted to read that the threshold, bypassed by developer, has now been abandoned altogether. I remain hopeful that the affordable housing percentage will be raised too.