

## **Motion to Council - Affordable and Social Housing Programme**

**Proposer – Tom Killen**

**Seconders – Eve Berry, Shane Collins**

On 2<sup>nd</sup> November, cabinet members agreed to move forward with an affordable and social housing programme and approved the transfer of 4 Mendip owned sites to Aster Housing Group. The 4 sites comprised of Cemetery Lane, Street, Cranhill Car Park, Street (part only), Norbins Road Car Park, Glastonbury and land adjoining Easthill Cemetery, Frome.

Following a call in by members of the Scrutiny Board, the Scrutiny Board considered the decision on 16<sup>th</sup> November and decided to refer this back to Cabinet due to concerns regarding ecology, drainage, consultation, best value, and consideration of alternative sites.

Following the Cabinet meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> November, Cabinet have confirmed their approval of 2 November 2020 to proceed with the transfer of Cemetery Lane, Street, Cranhill Car Park, Street (part only) and Norbins Road Car Park, Glastonbury, to Aster Housing Group, subject to contract and planning consent, for the development of affordable and social housing and to pause the proposed transfer of land adjoining Easthill Cemetery Frome to Aster to allow time for a review of issues raised by Members.

Full Council notes that proposals are also being prepared for the development of part of North Parade Car Park in Frome and that Cabinet will be asked to approve such proposals by 23 December 2020.

Full Council resolves that it recognises the acute need for the provision of affordable housing, particularly housing at a social rent, across the District and supports initiatives to address this need.

Full Council notes that it recognises the need to deliver on our climate and ecological commitment specifically to protect our local ecology and safeguard our biodiversity.

1. Full Council is however concerned at the proposal to develop the land adjoining Easthill Cemetery Frome which is recognised as an Open Area of Local Significance and is ancient parkland and a species rich habitat. Full Council requests the Cabinet not to proceed with the transfer of this site to Aster and to cease any plans to develop this site.
2. Full Council also wishes to ensure that the proposal to transfer and develop the sites at Cemetery Lane, Street, Cranhill Car Park, Street (part only) and Norbins Road Car Park, Glastonbury have been properly considered with full account given to public concerns as well as those expressed by the Scrutiny Board regarding ecology, consideration of alternative sites and best value. Full Council requests that Cabinet pause the proposed transfer of these sites to allow for a full consultation to be undertaken and for detailed reports considering the issues raised by the public and Scrutiny Board to be prepared and fully considered by the Cabinet and Scrutiny Board prior to giving final approval for any transfer.
3. Full council further requests the Cabinet not to transfer or propose for development any site in the ownership of the Council which has proven ecological /habitat value and/or community benefit without the prior approval of Full Council following provision of appropriate reports and public consultation.