

Meeting Herstmonceux Women's Institute 18.05.16

Meeting

Meeting held in the small hall in Herstmonceux Village Hall

Attendees

16 members of Herstmonceux WI

Comments

- There was a short discussion about the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan since 2013.
- Members were concerned that since the start of the process, two large developments (70 dwellings at Lime Cross and 40 dwellings at Lime Roughs) had received Outline Planning Permission from Wealden District Council (WDC). Some members were opposed to large developments and considered that their views had not been taken into account by WDC.
- The clerk to the Steering Group explained that any applications submitted by developers have to be considered by WDC, even during the process of creating a plan.
- The clerk to the Steering Group also explained that the Plan would not be recommending any sites for development and policies would concentrate on issues such as design, layout of sites, size of dwellings, green spaces, business opportunities, provision of broadband and better telephone services.
- Members expressed their concern about the lack of housing suitable for older residents who may wish to downsize.
- The lack of suitable assisted accommodation for older residents was raised as an issue as residents who have lived in the parish all their lives must move away for assisted accommodation.
- Support was also expressed for the maintenance of the villages shops and services, although the poor bus service (hourly service until 7pm and nothing on Sundays) was raised as a problem.

Key Points and Action

1. Housing, both for sale, for rental and assisted housing should be built in the parish.
2. Efforts to improve the bus service should be made with the service providers.
3. Businesses in the parish should be supported in every way.