**Roughmoor Lane Steering Group – Terms of Reference**

The role of the Steering Group is to enable residents of Westbury, individually and collectively, to make well informed comments on proposals to develop land at Roughmoor Lane. The comments may relate to the pre-planning consultation or any subsequent applications for planning permission. The Steering Group has two members who are parish councillors (Sue Isherwood and Sue Reece) and four other members of the community (Cathy Wilkins, Rowan Stewart, Liz Hughes and Mick Fletcher)

It is not the place of the Steering Committee to tell the village what to think; rather it is to encourage and support independent thought.

To that end the Steering Committee will

* Support and encourage communications on the topic using a range of media to ensure as far as possible that no individual is excluded from the conversation
* Establish and facilitate topic groups to research evidence on different aspects of the proposals and share their findings
* Oversee the preparation, distribution and analysis of a village survey to inform the topic groups and residents generally
* Coordinate contributions from topic groups and individuals
* Investigate whether it is possible to identify and summarise a village consensus that can inform the preparation of a formal response to any planning application by the parish council.
* Hold one or more open meetings at which individuals can give and receive information and express their views.

In carrying out these functions the Steering Committee acknowledges that individuals may hold different and possibly conflicting opinions and is committed to ensuring that all voices are heard, as long as contributions are made in a calm and respectful manner.

Several people have asked whether those concerned about the proposals should oppose the development outright or just ask for changes. Without wishing to prejudge the decision of the village or any individual it is possible to do both at the same time. Individuals and organisations often say something like

* These are our concerns about the plans ……….
* We therefore ask that the application be refused
* But if you are minded to allow it we ask for the following conditions to be imposed

That would be one option for Westbury.