

Roughmoor Lane

- We expect a village consultation by CC in April / May with revised plans
- They are currently seeking pre-application talks with SC
- The plans will include our preferred location for community land
- Indicating a preferred site for our land *should the development go ahead* does not imply support for the development
- The PC is obliged to keep an open mind until it sees any proposals

SC call for extra sites

- In July 2023 SC was required to seek sites for 505 extra houses to meet requirements in current local plan (to 2028)
- 151 sites were proposed including 6 in Westbury
- CC included brownfield land, land south of RML & off Bell Close
- All 6 were rejected as unsuitable
- SC sought to focus development on major towns not villages

- See full detail [here](#)

Meeting with Highways

- Called to correct Highways understanding of village issues / PC statements
- One point of contact for all parties on highways issues ref Roughmoor Lane
- Restatement the PC position that a safe crossing of A371 is a top priority for village and needs to be secured as outlined in local Plan WM1
- Need to consider all options to promote safe access across A371
- Agreement that CC apply the full scope in highway safety [document](#) issued by WSM PC
- Physical infrastructure for safer crossing / slowing traffic will need lighting. Dark Skies policy allows for critical need. All options tbc
- Highways accepted that rules governing some crossing options may be diluted a little if it was a reasonable thing to do to get a safe crossing
- Request further “cross party” discussions to ensure the best possible solution.

Housing Survey

- Survey undertaken by CNB Housing Insights Feb 2024 completed by over one third of households.
- Assessment also sourced data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS), Gov.uk, the Land Registry, Rightmove and Zoopla and the council.
- Along with many other parishes, WSM will also be required to contribute a number of new dwellings towards meeting the wider needs of the Somerset Local Plan area.
- *“The evidence in this housing Needs Statement suggests a number of areas for the neighbourhood planning process to consider if the long-term sustainability of the parish community is to be addressed:*
 - *attracting and/or retaining younger residents; and*
 - *sustaining an aging population.”*

Brownfield Site

- CC have given PC an option to bid for the site
- Bid needs to reflect possible open market value
- Group of funding 'angels' prepared to buy if price sensible and hold until village able to buy from them
- Currently seeking independent valuation.

- If valuation suggests purchase might be viable detailed consultation needed with village about potential uses