

Deputation from Metis Homes in Support of Planning Application for Erection of 16 New Homes on Land Rear of 15-27 Horndean Rd, Emsworth.

Dear Members of the Committee.

Thank you for taking the time to read this deputation ahead of Thursday's committee meeting.

I would like to start by publicly thanking your officers for working closely with us over the course of the past two years ahead of the application being presented to you with a firm recommendation for approval this Thursday.

The process began with a pre-application submission to understand how we may bring this site forward in line with the policies of the emerging plan. It was always earmarked for a housing allocation in the new plan, but was originally tied into the strategic allocation at Southleigh, despite it being physically separate from the rest of the Southleigh housing area and accessed separately via Horndean Road. We agreed with your policy team therefore that it was logical to bring this 16 home development forward independently and as a stand-alone housing allocation, which is how it now appears in the emerging plan.

We therefore carefully designed this high quality development in line with the policies of the emerging plan and following the detailed input of all key consultees and stakeholders to ensure that it was technically deliverable now and in no way compromises the Southleigh strategic site coming forward at a later date. In fact, the current proposal entirely accords with this small part of the Southleigh masterplan in the original form which it was published for consultation, and our scheme includes footway and cycle links to its boundaries to facilitate future permeability through to Southleigh and the recreation ground to the south.

Our application delivers 16 new homes of a high-quality traditional design, 5 of which are to be delivered as affordable homes through a registered provider, which is the full policy compliant amount in the policy compliant tenures. It also delivers an area of landscaped open space which is accessible by both the new residents and the wider existing community. This onsite open space is to be the subject of a bespoke management regime to encourage the botanical value of the species rich grassland to develop such that its biodiversity value is safeguarded in perpetuity. This management regime, secured through a S106 legal agreement is also extended beyond the site boundary to include land owned by Havant Borough Council, with the effect of uplifting further the biodiversity value for the local area.

Each modern new home will meet the sustainability standards required through construction and each property will also have its own electric vehicle charging point.

The plans which are now before you for consideration have been shaped following the valuable input from the local community, local ward Councillors, the Emsworth Residents Association and your planning officers. As a result of this consultative process the application is the subject of no objections from any statutory consultees and a firm recommendation for approval to enable us to deliver these new homes in the immediate term in response to a local need and to help in meeting the Borough's housing land supply requirements.

I would be very grateful for your support on Thursday by voting in favour of your officers recommendation for approval and enabling Metis Homes to bring forward this high quality, policy compliant sustainable small development of market and affordable homes, with its demonstrable associated ecological benefits and wider community gains.