

Dear Everyone

## Neighbourhood Plan notes for October

Two matters this month

The first is to encourage more people to respond to the consultation draft of the Neighbourhood Plan. The second is a good reason why you should.

The second point first

### 1 Expansion of Martock from Foldhill Lane to the A303

As you may know there are plans that have long been simmering in the background to build several hundred houses between Foldhill Lane and Cartgate, extending the village along the old railway line to the A303. A new proposal, the first of a number, was put to the Parish Council last month. Surveyors have been seen in the fields as far as Cartgate

This is an important matter. A development this size will mean that Martock will almost certainly have to be reclassified as a Market Town; it will grow in population by over a thousand (more than 20%) to be almost the size of Wincanton. We are currently classified as a village and under the national planning rules villages are protected from large scale development because 'sustainable development' means building houses where the jobs are. Currently over half of us commute out to work mainly to Yeovil. Our nearby market towns, Ilminster Langport, Somerton, Crewkerne, Castle Cary, have a much lower out-commute rate and, because they are major centres of employment, are set to grow much faster than we are.

For more information on this Foldhill proposal and its consequences come to our stall at the **Farmers' Market this Saturday 13th October**

We are developing the Neighbourhood Plan on the assumption that we will stay a village in accord with the South Somerset Plan - like Petherton and Stoke. This means a planned expansion of around 10-12 houses per year. We are on track. To keep on track we need everyone's support—and we need to prove we have it—which is why we are asking for comments on the first draft of the Plan.

### 2 Responding to the First Draft of the Plan

The response so far has been disappointing. Even if you don't have time to wade through the documents, please let us know the things that you particularly want the Plan to do for the village. We can then check that it will.

You can download pdfs of the whole plan or its sections by following these links

[Full draft Plan](#) - the full plan.

[Introduction](#) - the context, purpose, structures, aims and objectives.

[Natural environment](#)- habitats, corridors, floods, rights of way, countryside development, views.

[Built environment](#)- heritage, green spaces, character, design, accommodating

growth.

[Housing](#) - numbers, what kind, affordable housing.

[The local economy](#) - business areas and development, communications

[Transport](#) - public transport, parking, footpaths, traffic, disabled access.

[Community well-being](#) - facilities, recreation.

The full download page showing all these files and more is at [http://](http://martockplan.org.uk/Drafts/Draft1.html)

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Please comment

- by email to [info@martockplan.org.uk](mailto:info@martockplan.org.uk) or direct to me
- by written comments - drop off in the parish office - I'll put a box there.
- directly on our webpages where your comment will be public.

Best wishes

Andrew