

Build Back Better? - 100 more houses to be built in Hermitage



Hermitage NDP

Hermitage lies within The South Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) - a nationally protected green space. Yet in the next few years the southern part of our village will see nearly 100 more houses* built - a vast meadow, home to wildlife and feeding ground for deer will be lost forever.

The Government tells us we need more houses. Our own housing survey of residents carried out in February agrees - Hermitage needs more housing for young and growing families as well as for older residents to downsize to.

We can't stop development but we can control what developers plan to build and how it will look. Creating a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) for our village is the only way for people of Hermitage to influence how our village will be for the future and for our children and grandchildren.

We are determined to continue with the struggle to keep Hermitage a healthy and harmonious place to call home. We've been working throughout the pandemic, gathering evidence to create an NDP that reflects what residents have told us they want. It's a big task but we're now getting support from professionals and aim to have a draft plan ready next Spring which everyone will be able to comment on.

We don't have the skills to do wizzy stuff but we do have a space on Hermitage Village website (<https://hermitage.org.uk/neighbourhood-development-plan/>) where you can find out more. You can also contact us by email on <mailto:Hermitagendp@gmail.com>

We'll keep you posted through the website, Facebook, The Pathfinder and village notice boards.

*Land east of Station Road (extending towards Lipscombe Close and south towards the old railway line) identified as HER004 in West Berkshire's Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) published December 2020 – potential for up to 60 units (<https://info.westberks.gov.uk/helaa> Click on Appendix 4, Excel tab "Stage 2a", scroll down to line 136)

*Land and buildings at The Old Farmhouse, Newbury Road (ref 21/00783/COND3) – 21 units approved 26 May 2021

*Land at rear of Charlotte Close (ref 20/00912/FULEXT) – 16 units approved 8 October 2021