



Local Government for Langton Green, Speldhurst, Ashurst and Old Groombridge

**Minutes of a Local Needs Housing Committee Meeting held in the Committee Room,
Ashurst Village Hall on Friday 5th November 2010 at 11.30am**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Wheeler (Chairman), Cllrs Mrs Hull, Langridge, Brown and Milner

OFFICER PRESENT: Chris May, Clerk

- 1. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interest:** There were none
- 2. Declarations of Lobbying:** None received
- 3. Apologies for Absence:** There were none
- 4. Minutes** of the meeting **dated 18th June 2010**, copies having previously been forwarded to all Members, were approved and signed as a correct record.
- 5. Matters Arising and Correspondence:** The committee discussed the 50/50 split regarding the Rusthall Elms site and it agreed that this was an improved offer for residents of Langton Green. Cllr Mrs Hull agreed that any extra units on the Rusthall Elms site was welcome, however, this proposal to only allocate these units to Langton Green/Rusthall residents was yet another example of fragmenting the Parish. She asked the clerk to request Sarah Lewis (TWBC Affordable Housing Officer) for research and advice on the Empty House Grant Policy and how it can be used to reduce dependency on building on Green Belt.
- 6. Update on current situation:** The committee agreed that Alison Thompson of English Rural Housing Association (ERHA) had made a good presentation and that the project was being well managed by the company. There was concern about the dependency of the development on highways issues and whether the Parish Council could contribute to traffic calming to make the project viable.
- 7. Future timetable:** It was important that the offer of housing on the Rusthall Elms site was advertised in the December edition of Langton Life and Cllr Langridge said he would ensure that it was in the magazine on receipt of the correct wording from Sarah Lewis. It would also be advertised on the website.
The consultation process for site 15 needed to be in the all December magazines and website as well.
- 8. Items for Information:** Cllr Mrs Hull said that there was no cohesive policy between planning and local housing and suggested that 18 Northfields was an opportunity missed and could have been another option within the village envelope reducing dependency on the MGB.

The meeting closed at 11.55am.

Chairman