**20:353.8 Actions regarding affordable housing. June 3rd, 2020 Parish Council Meeting**

The recent hearing on the 2nd examination of the NP had housing and more specifically affordable housing was at the centre of the argument with Lagan Homes. The Parish Council was absolutely clear that a housing development with only 2 affordable homes and the rest executive style homes was not at all what the village wants or needs. We made clear that we have within the confines of the village capacity for 10-12 affordable homes. These would be for village residents\children of and people who work in the village/ pubs and small rural businesses. The granting of land to the PC will make possible housing for some.

We have also actively been looking at Gallosbrook Way and the possibility of extending the housing by four homes. These would be strictly disability friendly and done in the style of the rest of the homes. I have contacted the Regional Manager of Sanctuary and explained our thinking and asked if they would be prepared to look at providing such a development. They have answered that they are very willing to do and have given us the local contact for discussion.

To safeguard the application for this housing, the purchase of the field needs to be fairly swiftly actioned. Further in this agenda the actions around this project will be explained by Cllr Robin Stafford-Allen.

The silence from the Housing Dep’t of Cherwell is confusing as we do need their advice in this area. Previous discussions indicated that there are three national recognised housing groups that provide the type of housing we want. How we go forward in a strictly correct manner is as yet, unclear.

With the PC’s consent this will be pursued for both for both sites. Reason – *expectation of action by LH*

**Fir Tree Farm**

John Miller has stated and confirmed by writing, that he will gift the land at the south east corner of his property to the PC for housing. The project for homes is then ours on the condition that they are affordable homes. The Chair has requested that he file the pre-application so the discussion can begin with the planners at CDC.

Advice on the development as well as a list of those who would benefit from the homes needs to be done through the Housing Dep’t of CDC – the survey and needs analysis. In the light of the virus stopping these activities, the PC needs to be pro-active in speaking with residents and showing them how straightforward it is to get on the housing register.

**The process for application to be on the housing register**

Search: Cherwell District Council Housing Register, Look at items 2 – 6.

There is a great deal of information and an officer will help out when needed. As previously stated, many people are worried about signing on this register because they think it is for the destitute. This is untrue. The Oxford area is very expensive for housing and it is almost impossible to get on the housing ladder. The homes that we hope to build should help some of our younger people, some of our older people who want to downsize and release a larger home for the market. We would also like people with any form of disability to be able to stay in the village but live independently.