7. Affordable Housing Update

The Fir Tree Farm application is being prepared for pre-application to CDC which will present some challenges based on the NP’s examiners comments during the Hearing. It was his view that NP are allowed to designate housing in Green Belt Land on the basis of rural exception and he had done it himself on several occasions. CDC has not agreed with this as a policy. However, it is felt that putting in this pre-application which has 6-8 affordable homes plus an extension of the commercial unit will be useful in that the Planning Department will have to take a view on whether is a rural exception site.

No further word from the Housing Dept at Cherwell and hopefully the loosening of the lockdown will make a difference to how some of the departments are working.

I have not taken discussions with Sanctuary forward as there is some discussion necessary with the Housing Department – for example, we probably need to look at more than one housing association.

Work to come: pre-application statement on Fir Tree Farm, increase in young people and the elderly on the housing register for WOTG (to prove need), formal discussions with housing associations