

PARISH COUNCIL DRAFT MINUTES

With due respect to my fellow councillors, here is an extract from the draft minutes of the January meeting. It's not my practice to broadcast minutes that have not yet been approved by members and I ask their indulgence on this occasion, as it was important to include this information in this issue of the magazine. - RC.

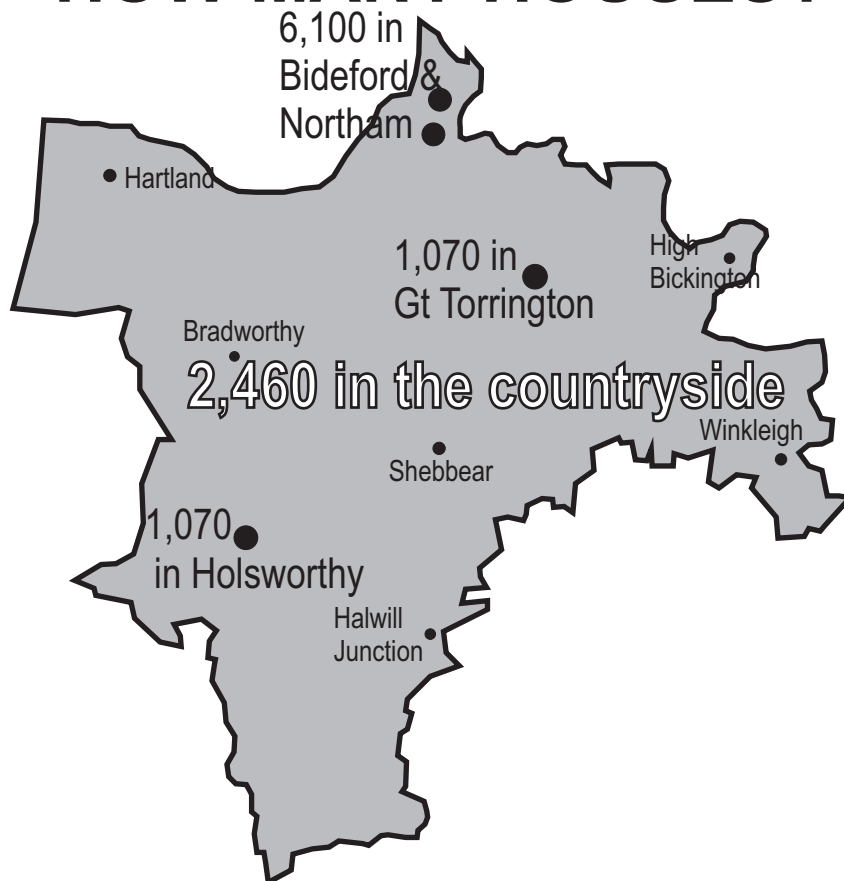
Chairman suspended official business and invited Maria Bailey of TDC to speak to the meeting on the subject of the N Devon and Torridge Core Strategy Consultation which will run for 6 weeks from January 21st to March 4th. The Core Strategy is the bringing together of the results of a number of studies and consultations over the last 2 years as a result of the Government directive that 21,600 new homes be built and the necessary infrastructure needed to support the increase, within the Northern Devon area up until the year 2026.

Councillors felt that Shebbear had already had more houses inflicted on the parish recently which were stretching our existing facilities to the limit, and, although it was understood that we have to move with the times, more houses without an enhanced infrastructure would be resisted.

Maria advised that it was important that comments from the community be fed into the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

As the consultation ends on March 4th, Councillors agreed that either a general meeting, or a public session before the next Council meeting on Feb 9th, would give parishioners the opportunity to make their views on the future of the community known, for forwarding to the District Council. There will also be an article in Reflecting Shebbear, a feature on the village website, and posters on the notice boards containing details of the 14 public information meetings being held throughout the area in the coming weeks. The information flyer issued by Maria's department has also been delivered to all addresses with the Admart magazine. The importance of making our views known to the Planning authority cannot be overstated.

HOW MANY HOUSES?



The outline plan is for 10,700 more homes in the Torridge area. This document says that 6,100 of them would be in the Bideford and Northam area, 1,070 would be around Torrington and another 1,070 would be around Holsworthy.

That leaves 2,460 to be built in the more rural parts of Torridge. Six rural hubs are identified, and these will be “the focus for development in the rural area”; these are Bradworthy, Halwill Junction, Hartland, High Bickington, **Shebbear** and Winkleigh. There might be some house-building in smaller villages “to address locally generated and quantified needs”. But that sounds like a few agricultural tied dwellings, nothing substantial. It looks like Shebbear will be in line for a share of the 2,460.

Hartland, Winkleigh and Bradworthy are all bigger than Shebbear. Even if they took the lion's share and we only had our “fair share” of the additional houses it would mean something close to 300 more, to come to Shebbear. We've just had something less than 100 extra in the last ten years. If you think that wind of change altered the way of life here, then hold on to your hat. The gales are a'coming.

Approximate number of dwellings in 2009:	
Hartland	800
Winkleigh	700
Bradworthy	500
Shebbear	400
Halwill Junction	400
High Bickington	400