

**Statement by the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning**

**26 July 2011**

**Enforcement**

HDC has a consistently high number of outstanding enforcement cases.

Under shared services Hambleton and Richmondshire have one full time and one shared officer in the new service. Due to the high number of outstanding actions Hambleton will for a 12 month period employ an additional member of staff and are interviewing people qualified to be an enforcement officer.

With this action we will manage and reduce the outstanding workload and I would like to hear from Members about their priorities for enforcement over this period.

However there will always be outstanding actions due to appeals and legal actions but at a more manageable level.

**Appeals**

Members are circulated with all appeals logged and decision letters; for any clarification please e-mail your concerns.

**Bagby Airfield**

The Planning Inspector has now delivered his decision on the 3 planning appeals and 1 enforcement appeal at Bagby Airfield. The Inspector has drawn the line at the status quo in terms of existing development at the site by allowing the enforcement and planning appeals against development already completed on site. However he has dismissed the appeals against the proposed replacement clubhouse, new hangars and concrete aprons, new workshop/maintenance hangar, further geo-textile matting, relocated fuel line, access and parking. This appeal was dismissed on the ground of noise and disturbance to the local community. He has also dismissed the appeal against a replacement helicopter landing pad and jet fuel stop facility on the grounds of unacceptable noise and disturbance.

Officers have recently met with the Council's barrister to discuss the options now open to the Council to control air traffic movements at the site.

As a result a series of meetings are being arranged to discuss the position with the Council Ward Member, the two parish councils and representatives of the local action group. A further meeting is being arranged with Airfield owner and his representatives. At the end of this process a report will be presented to Planning Committee for members to fully consider the issues.

**LDF Allocations**

**The legal challenge to the LDF Allocation at south-west Sowerby**

The Judge ruled the challenge was outside the High Court's jurisdiction to deal with because it was made outside the 6 week period. The claimant has lodged an appeal

## **AGENDA ITEM NO 5 (d)**

against the judgement to the Court of Appeal and we expect this to be heard between November 2011 and February 2012.

In terms of making decisions on planning applications the Council has a statutorily adopted plan and it is able to give it full weight. This has been confirmed by legal advice.

### **Strategic Housing Market Assessment**

This study is near to completion and there was a presentation to Members on 8 July. It contains a wealth of information of housing needs.

Although the results are still subject to confirmation it is showing a need for 350-380 low cost homes for local people per year which is a significant increase on previous estimates. It is also showing that there is an under supply of smaller homes in the District.

### **Empty Properties**

Empty homes has been highlighted as an issue; this is homes being empty for more than 6 months. I have asked that Ward Members be circulated with details of any homes on the Empty Homes Register in their Ward as local knowledge is invaluable. Removing homes that are now occupied from the Register could help boost the Council's New Homes Bonus.

### **Planning for Traveller Sites**

The Council has now responded to the Government's consultation on planning for traveller sites. The response was based on the comments Members made at the training event on 23 June.

### **Sustainable Development**

I have taken on the role of Environmental Champion from Cllr Brian Phillips now that this work has moved to the Housing and Planning Theme.

**Councillor Tim Swales**  
**Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning**