Research Questions for West Wittering

Below we set out the RQs relevant to this study, as discussed and agreed with West Wittering Parish Council (WWPC).

Research Questions, abbreviated to ‘RQ;’ are arrived at the start of the project through discussion with the parish. They serve to direct our research and provide the structure for the HNA.

**Quantity**

The Local Authority, Chichester District Council (CDC), is in the process of developing a new Local Plan. They have committed to provide West Wittering Parish Council with a housing number, updating the allocation of 500 dwellings to the settlement area that appears in the current adopted Local Plan. It is important to note the settlement area comprises the parish of East Wittering and Bracklesham in addition to West Wittering.

Despite commitment from CDC to provide the group with this number, WWPC wishes to generate their own assessment to ensure the final number used to support policies in their plan provides adequately for the future needs of the community, particularly in relation to the provision of dwellings suited to the needs of young people and families from the area to wish to continue to live there.

1. *What quantity of housing is appropriate for the NPA?*

**Tenure**

WWPC has expressed an interest in seeing more affordable housing in the NPA so as to support the viability of the settlement, particularly in respect of enabling young people living on modest incomes to find suitable housing in the NPA. There is an associated concern that market housing is predominantly targeted at the needs of people seeking second homes; this has led, for example, to the loss of council housing through right to buy, which has been sold on as second homes.

This study will therefore explore tenure mix with a particular focus on affordable housing including the role of shared ownership and discounted market housing suited to the needs of those doing vital but poorly paid work, for example caring for the elderly.

1. *What affordable housing (social housing, affordable rented, shared ownership, intermediate rented) and market tenures should be included in the housing mix?*

**Type and size**

WWPC aspires to provide housing throughout people’s lives, allowing them to stay in the village at every stage of their lives if they wish. There is an interest therefore to understand how this may be achieved through the delivery of dwellings of different types and sizes.

1. *What type (terrace, semi, bungalows, flats and detached) and size (number of habitable rooms) of housing is appropriate?*

**Housing for specialist groups**

WWPC has commented that older people are under-served in the area as there are few suitable dwellings for people to ‘downsize’ into; in addition, there is limited provision of specialist housing for the elderly in West Wittering.

1. *What provision should be made for specialist housing within the NPA?*