Report of Lytchett Matravers Neighbourhood Plan 2 Working Group for Council on 24th. September 2025

NP2 WG has met twice in September. Work on the NP has been halted while the WG considers the Parish Council's response to Dorset Council's Local Plan consultation and the Dorset Council/BCP Council Local Transport Plan consultation.

The public response to both consultations is due by 13th. October. This also applies to the Parish Council's response to the DC/BCP LTP consultation. However, DC has offered Parish & Town Councils the opportunity to apply for an extension to the submission date. This has been done giving the reasons for requesting an extension.

"Reasons cited are:

The need to find a consensus on how to respond to proposals for a significantly large increase in a village of nearly 4,000 inhabitants and the related implications for the provision of local facilities and infrastructure.

Due process needs to be followed. Detailed discussions will be needed at the Parish Council's October meeting and agreement on the response at the November meeting.

In the context of significant changes to the Green Belt, the Parish Council's deliberations are further complicated by the proposals for a Lytchett Garden Village adjacent to and including some land within the Parish of Lytchett Matravers. The interaction between the two proposals and their impact on the future shape of Lytchett Matravers, how it appears, how its infrastructure and village assets are affected needs sufficient time for consideration.

The availability of the members of the working group who are preparing the response due to prior long-standing commitments – with many away for significant weeks during September / early October.

The Parish Council response must reflect what is both right for its Village in the short and long term and for Dorset Council working towards a coherent plan to meet its housing targets."

Work is ongoing on appraising the Opportunity sites and their suitability/sustainability, the answers to the questions in the consultation and what else needs to be said about the infrastructure and facilities the village will need in the future.

The WG is conscious of the scale of development proposed, the possible impact of Lytchett Garden Village and the inappropriateness of the Government's Standard Methodology for determining Dorset's housing need. The Standard Methodology has to be challenged but the WG is cognisant that there may be no reduction in the numbers Government demands. This requires a response that reflects that probability. How best to do this is a key question that the WG is working on. The NP2 Village Survey results are helpful, as are WG members views and those expressed by residents on social media, CPRE and others.

A draft response has yet to emerge. It will and reflect a view about what is best for the Lytchett Matravers in the long term.