

**Response to Doddinghurst Parish Council
Regarding their letter 31st May, 2011
Local Development Plan**

Madam Chairman, Parish Councillors', Friends & Neighbours.

Thank you for letting me address you tonight regarding the piece of land adjacent to St Margarets' Church, Doddinghurst Road.

For those of you that don't know me, let me introduce myself.

My name is Dave Parrott, I am married with three children and Director / Owner of a Fire Protection Company. I am an ordinary working man; I am not a property developer.

I have lived in and owned The Barn and Cymbalene since about 1976, some 35 years.

A brief History of the piece of land we are talking about.

Before Bakers Meadow was built, this was the area of the old Rectory – The Rector was the Reverend Kittoe and he also owned the piece of land we are talking about this evening.

In 1984 I approached the Kittoe family about buying the land, which at that time included the Football Field.

After much negotiation, I agreed to buy the 6.1 acres football field for £24,000.00.

I mentioned this to my business partner, who happened to be a Parish Councillor and one time Chairman.

A delegation from the Parish Council (Ray Franklin, Eric Walker, Roger Norris and others) then approached me at my house one Sunday morning and asked me to back out of the deal so that the Parish could buy this land instead.

I acceded to their request; therefore don't make me out to be a pariah as without my good auspices the village would not have this valuable asset.

I kept in contact with the Kittoe family and in 2004 I purchased the Freehold of the remaining land.

At that time I learnt that the piece of land opposite Brook Lane had been lost to adverse possession (where the container is) and persons unknown were trying it on with the rest of the land – that’s why I fenced it in.

That’s the background,

moving on, in December 2009 Brentwood Borough Council issued a

Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment – “Call for Sites”

This is a long term planning exercise, not likely to take place until the earliest 2020. Indeed Brentwood Borough Council has identified that they have enough Brownfield land to enable 170 units per year up to 2020, and further if any ‘windfall’ sites come along – Highwood Hospital 440 units !

I filled in the paperwork and suggested that this piece of land may be suitable for development and I suggested the use for

- 1. Doctors Surgery**
- 2. Retirement Bungalow’s**
- 3. Sheltered Housing.**

To my surprise, BBC’s agent ‘Atkins’ put forward this land as suitable for 60 dwellings.

I wrote to BBC on 7th April 2010 and told them that in my opinion the density was far too high.

I suggested 5 large houses would be more appropriate.

Ladies & Gentlemen, this has been on the table for 18 months and in common circular knowledge for 15 months.

This is not a sudden and new development

This is not a panic situation and not likely to happen in my lifetime.

This situation has been created by Doddinghurst Parish Council because they have failed to keep you informed and they realised that when the road-show was on in front of Budgens on the 11th May that they were running short on time and created the panic.

They had plenty of opportunity to keep you informed via the Link Magazine, Doddinghurst Parish Council web site and Doddinghurst village web site.

Extract from DPC web site:

Quality Status

Doddinghurst Parish Council achieved “Quality Council” accreditation in October, 2007. One of the main aims to achieve quality status is

Quality status requires a council to show that it is:

- **representative of the whole community**
 - **communicates with its residents**
- and**
- **is properly managed and responsible**

And:

Test 4 - Communication

(part mandatory, part discretionary)

A major requirement of Quality status is that the council can demonstrate that it communicates, consults and actively involves its electorate, local organisations and members of the public.

The importance of communications is illustrated in the on-line poll conducted by UK Villages which was commissioned by NALC and the Countryside Agency:

They have not done this.

Another extract from DPC web site:

Doddinghurst Parish Council became eligible and resolved to adopt the Power of Well-Being in November 2009.

• This Power is a power of first resort for Local Councils to achieve the objective(s) of the promotion of, or improvements to: the economic, and/or the social, and/or environmental, well-being of its area.

They have not done this.

Another extract from DPC web site:

‘Our Role’

The following is extracted from the recent Rural White Paper, A Fair Deal For Rural England:

The first requirement of a parish council is that it is representative of its community. To demonstrate that, it will actively engage all its residents, businesses and surrounding landowners and managers in its work through regular meetings and events, newsletters, surveys, working groups, youth councils etc. In conjunction with them it will identify the needs of its community and set out its priorities for action in a readable and widely available parish plan. Working in partnership with principal local authorities (counties, districts and unitary authorities) and other agencies affecting its village, it will be a key part of their local consultation processes – contributing to housing, transport, health and other local plans. Working with partners, including the voluntary and community sector, (it) will undertake services funded from its own resources – looking after the village environment (litter, bus shelters, village green, cemeteries etc) and provide public facilities such as playgrounds and village halls. To promote inclusive communities it will support community transport schemes and childcare provision; seek suitable sites and projects for affordable housing, and help develop youth activities and services for the elderly.

They have not done this.

Another extract from DPC web site:

Statement of Intent as to Community Engagement

Issue 1 Page 1 of 4 April 2009

Doddinghurst Parish Council

1. Aims and Objectives

The council's aims and objectives for seeking community engagement and the outcomes it hopes to achieve are:

A. Aims to:

- ☐ work more closely with residents, businesses and community groups;
- ☐ engage with as many people as possible who want to participate in decision-making, monitoring services and planning for the future;
- ☐ ensure, that through the use of a wide range of approaches to public involvement and community engagement, we actively encourage the involvement of residents, to capture their views and learn their concerns and effectively use those views as an integral part of the decision-making process.
- ☐ ensure that residents have the opportunities to be heard at every stage, and the capacity to be effective citizens.

B. Objectives.

This strategy is part of the council's commitment to creating and maintaining effective working relationships with all sectors of the community, based on trust, openness and constructive challenge. Outcomes of the strategy will include:

- ☐ Improved communication through the establishment of new channels of engagement.
- ☐ More residents understanding the role of Councillors and getting the best effect.
- ☐ Improved engagement with local communities, with more people feeling that they are involved in decision-making and a higher percentage of people involved in volunteering.
- ☐ Improved satisfaction with local public services

Ladies & Gentlemen, Doddinghurst Parish Council have failed to do any of this, they have also failed to tell you (other than finding it on their web-site) that they have agreed to adopt the Localism Bill put out by the Coalition Government.

Part of this Bill deals with Neighbourhood planning

Their intention is that local community groups **will come together with a vision for their area**, approach the Council to be formally recognised, and then this group will develop a spatial plan for their area, setting out what forms of development they think will be acceptable, and effectively grant permission for certain types of use without having to apply for planning permission.

Such a plan for the Doddinghurst area could not only benefit those wanting to channel the nature of development, but also benefit the wider area, allowing investment and development to bring jobs and homes in to the area in a controlled and safe way, directly led by the community - rather than by the Borough Council, **with the community saying what they wanted and where they wanted it**, rather than someone without any connection to the area in remote Council offices.

And, by the way, they get a share of £20,000.00 to assist in drafting the plan.

Ladies & Gentlemen, Doddinghurst Parish Council have

failed to keep you informed

failed to consult

they have ignored all their pledges

and they have created a bad atmosphere by their scaremongering, knee jerk reactions which are misguided and misinformed.

Behind this I believe they think they will get another Outings Lane development imposed on the village by a Social Housing Group and Brentwood Borough Council – such is NOT the case.

No-one from the Planning Committee or Parish Council has consulted with me and asked me face-to-face any questions relating to this issue.

I only found out about this issue by a neighbour that told me that the Parish Council was at Doddinghurst School on Friday 10th June handing out letters and urging people to object. This letter was dated 31st May, 2011.

Another neighbour told me that they had had a copy delivered to their house.

I asked for a copy at the Parish Room on Thursday 16th June. (I was not given the Pro-Forma page) The Parish Clerk told me that some people did not get a copy because those that were distributing them employed the aid of their children and I must have been ‘missed’.

The following day I learned that this letter had a pro-forma attachment for people to complete and post to Brentwood Borough Council.

Another bout of deliveries took place last Monday night and again I was missed out.

It would appear that Doddinghurst Parish Council did not like the official survey form put out by Brentwood Borough Council.

Doddinghurst Parish Council have abused their position and acted unilaterally without consultation.

Misfeasance is a very serious offence.

If the Parish Council / Planning Committee had approached me and discussed their concerns, I would have told them that in my opinion :-

There are people living in Doddinghurst that are Asset Rich, but Cash Poor.....who want to downsize.....

- they can not afford high energy bills now their children have left home and they do not need a large property any more.
- they do not want to leave the village and their families and friends
- They want to free up some cash for a new energy efficient car or holiday.

Nursing Home / Care Home fees are set to double in the next 10 years to £2000.00 per week.

My vision, for the want of a better description, is to see a Retirement Village where residents can complete these aims.

- Energy efficient housing of a size to meet their current needs
- A safe and secure environment
- Open spaces and communal gardens
- A resident Warden or Caretaker to do maintenance work and cut the grass and put the Dustbins out
- Someone to look out for them, talk to them, do a bit of shopping
- Co-ordinate the Social Services, Doctor and Public Services, Refuse etc

I would also like to see a permanent footpath to give the residents at that end of the village safe access to the schools and shops.

I would also like to see more Car Parking that St Margaret's Church could use on Sundays and Event days.

These are all genuine benefits for the village.

Ladies and Gentlemen: Thank you for coming and listening to me, my only regret is that this should have happened 6 months ago.

May I just end by reminding you that the local elections will be held next May.