

Vote of ‘No Confidence’ in Amber Valley Borough Council

At their recent meeting Crich Parish Council passed a vote of ‘No Confidence’ in Amber Valley Borough Council (AVBC) as a Local Planning Authority, and wrote to the Secretary of State to ask for his intervention.

The move came after months of concerted effort by the Council and local residents, to get the Authority to act in a fair and responsible way regarding the latest application for yet more housing in Crich.

Chair of Crich Parish Council, Councillor Margaret Lane said, “Amber Valley Borough Council continues to fail to provide a housing requirement figure for Crich Parish, and for all other Parish and Town Council areas within the Borough. This means Developers currently have a free-for-all in getting planning permission.”

The development, on land at Woodside Farm, conflicts in many important respects with Crich Neighbourhood Plan, which was supported by 97% of voters in a large turnout at the referendum in the Autumn of 2018.

Councillor Lane went on to say “The report on which the decision was based omits important facts, is irrational, and is without proper reasoning. The National Planning Policy Framework is very clear that where a planning application conflicts with a Neighbourhood Plan that has been brought into force, planning permission should not normally be granted.”

The letter to the Secretary of State was also sent to all Town and Parish Councils in Amber Valley, encouraging them to also air their concerns, and a number have already done so. AVBC have responded to the letter saying a ‘Judicial Review’ would be the appropriate route of challenge, but as a Councillor commented “Everyone knows costs of over £50,000 make a Judicial Review out of reach for small Parish Councils.”

Over 200 new homes have been approved in Crich over the last three years significantly increasing demands on local facilities and amenities’. Whilst the Parish Council recognises the need for new homes it also recognises the need to prevent over development and lasting damage to a much loved village community. We therefore call upon Amber Valley Borough Council to accept the will of local people as expressed in the Neighbourhood Plan.

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