

Notes on MBF discussion on “Planning in Wealden” 10th January 2017

Karena Wilford led the discussion, drawing on her experience as an architect.

Points raised and discussed included:

- Wealden District Council keep a register of sites submitted by interested parties for possible development. This is part of their Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA). You can download a map of these sites in Mayfield at http://www.wealden.gov.uk/Wealden/Residents/Planning_and_Building_Control/Planning_Policy/Strategic_Housing_Economic_Land_Assess/PPolicy_SHELAA.aspx
- Also Wealden keep a list of people who are interested in self-build
- Self-build was an idea that appealed to a number of participants at the meeting.
- Forming some sort of community group or company to try to acquire land that could be allocated to individuals for self-build was also discussed. This might help ensure that developments would be in keeping and supported by the community.
- One other reason suggested for a community company was that it might also be a way of providing more affordable housing. However, research after the meeting showed that the demand for affordable housing had declined in recent years, so there did not seem to be an urgent need.
- Participants in general seemed to be sympathetic to a reasonable expansion of people in the village. However, there were concerns about having the necessary infrastructure (e.g. schools, doctors, roads and parking). It was noted that the primary school seemed to have spare capacity at the moment.
- It was agreed that more shops in the village would create more interest and the existing shops could be promoted better and villagers encouraged to use them more and ensure their viability.