

Lamyat Parish agrees with the broad objectives and principles of the Mendip Local Plan II.

In terms of **housing allocations**, we agree that the broad thrust of the Council's approach to concentrate development in the 5 main settlements; and then in the hierarchy of villages, already identified, is the correct one.

Specifically for Lamyat parish, we think that like a number of other smaller settlements in the District, the village lacks the range of facilities and services for it to be considered as a sustainable location for any significant growth – although we recognise that housing proposals can come forward under the rural exception policy (DP12) to meet local affordable need.

We are broadly supportive of the **self-build approach**, but need to be convinced, however, by the Policy DP24 which promotes single-plot exception sites, supposedly to provide additional flexibility in these settlements for lower-cost market housing. We cannot see how the Council could effectively ensure that any application so granted can be maintained within the low-cost bracket, for local need. We particularly feel that in order to ensure community benefit going forward, appropriate legal mechanisms *must* be in place to ensure dwellings remain affordable in perpetuity, e.g. with resale values restricted to 60% of open market value. It is not clear to us how this could be achieved, and so we cannot support this policy until this is made clear. This objective might be better achieved through a Housing Association or a community land-trust with clear social objectives.

With regards to the **employment strategy** we support the 'open for business' approach. We see as a key component of this, the possibility of small entrepreneurs being able to work from home and, in order for them to do so, to have access to suitable Broadband infrastructure. The current provision within Lamyat Parish for Broadband is inadequate. We agree with the sector priorities and specialisms as set out within the strategy and the document.

In terms of the **Local Open Spaces** designation, we support the principle of this policy and welcome the identification of sites across the District. Specific to Lamyat parish, we are convinced that 4 of the 5 sites identified are clearly worthy of such designation: LAM002, 003, 004 & 005. We are less convinced at the extent of site LAM001, specifically the western portion of that designation; and would consider the area to the east of the Church, the old Stables, fronting onto the road as of equivalent merit. For site LAM002, consideration could also be given to extending the (north-) eastern boundary of that site adjacent to the road.

Paul Chadwick

(Lamyat Parish chairman)

On behalf of the Parish planning group

12th February 2018