

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL



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STEEP PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSE TO SDNPA LOCAL PLAN PROPOSALS

1. The incorporation of the Church Road site (next to the Village Hall) within the Settlement Boundary is welcomed, as it will make possible a number of alternative futures for the centre of the village. We do not know what the Steep in Need charity trustees (who now control the site) will propose, but this has long been recognised as one of the better potential areas for modest development in Steep. The Trustees of the Steep War Memorial Village Club (the charity which is responsible for the Village Hall) also support this change and have proposed a parcel of land that they control south of the Hall car park to be considered in conjunction with the plans of Steep in Need. This is to assist in the development of a coherent design for this very important site at the heart of our village.
2. The potential of eight to twelve housing units suggested for this site seems reasonable at this stage. However, the precise number for which planning approval may be sought (and which the Parish Council would be minded to support) will have to await the completion of detailed architectural and landscaping design work and public consultation.
3. The other proposed changes to the Settlement Boundary are both extensive and restrictive, effectively eliminating any further “in fill” development of the main centre of Steep. In so far as this can be seen to protect the character of our village, Councillors are prepared to support these changes, but it could mean that any further development is limited to the conversion of redundant agricultural buildings. In order to support a vibrant and slowly growing community reflecting a balanced age distribution. we would ask that SDNPA view any future Rural Exception site applications from Steep sympathetically.
4. Bedales: The proposals are silent on the future of the Bedales estate, which remains outside the Settlement Boundary. Councillors commented that they would expect similar planning authority scrutiny to be applied to any proposed developments within the current Bedales estate, as would apply to any other proposal for open countryside building elsewhere within Steep.