

Dolton Parish Council

Local Development Framework Issues & Options Response

4th February 2008

Dear Maria

Thank you for attending our LDF open evening at Dolton Village Hall on Monday 21st January 2008. We felt it was a good meeting and your input and responses have given us and the public a better understanding of the process

Please find attached our response and note that in some cases, we have elected not to comment on other settlements as we feel the Councils and the people of those areas are better placed to give their input, but we are of course far more acutely aware of the issues facing Dolton and have responded as such

Our responses to the LDF Issues & Options questions are supported by the content of the 2004 Dolton Parish Plan (currently undergoing review & update) and the 2006 Dolton Housing Needs Survey, together with comments from members of the public (also attached) to produce an overall picture reflecting the issues and challenges in front of us today

For whatever reason, whether it be lack of direction or that the process has been simply too restrictive, many of the issues raised in the Dolton Parish Plan and various housing surveys have not even begun to be addressed. It is hoped that the LDF process has finally provided the vehicle upon which genuine opportunity and action can be brought about

It is very refreshing to see a more 'Community driven' approach coming to the fore. Finally being able to identify and provide for sustainability is a major factor. We are currently experiencing many issues that are arguably a product of a lack of foresight in the past. As each year goes by, Dolton sees more people and young families forced to move away to find a start in life, to grow into a larger family home, for better amenities and facilities or to gain employment and sustain business – there are many reasons, but few solutions

It must be said that not even the most progressive of people ever want to see Dolton lose its charm, character and qualities, but we are squarely on the threshold of either falling into a retirement village which will inevitably be unable to sustain its amenities, or being able to find a way to move forward as a Community whilst retaining our cherished village identity. The LDF it would seem, has arrived in the nick of time as the balance is there

It is clear from the Issues and Options report that many topics actually go hand in hand and are being considered as such – this is of course how it should be with need, cause and effect being measured all round. The holistic approach is very much supported

With Dolton facing concerns and shortcomings regarding its Affordable Housing, Open-market Housing, Sheltered Housing, Pre-School, Primary School, Village Hall, Sports & Leisure Facilities, Car Parking, Public Transport Services, Health Services, Light Industry & Small Businesses it is beyond any doubt that we are a Community in need and that development within Dolton should encompass more than merely housing alone

We hope our input is of value to your initial consultation and we look forward to an update in due course

Cllr John Lock – Chairman, Dolton Parish Council