

Dear Sir,

In his article in last week's edition, Peter Christie raised the issue of a planning application for 61 homes between the A39 and Clovelly Road. I assume that this application falls outside the list of potential development sites within the new Local Plan. Nothing new there then, except to highlight the tortured process of this Plan through the layers of local and national government that has left many communities frustrated and angry in light of the work many took on to submit their proposed development proposals up until and including 2031.

In the summer of 2013, through extensive consultation within the community, which quite rightly then had to be justified to Torrington District Council, Buckland Brewer Parish Council came up with a progressive settlement plan which was submitted and included in the new Local Plan. Essentially there is a need to "grow" the village, with a mixture of housing, thus enabling enduring support for our school, community shop and pub.

Prior to the Local Plan's submission to the Government's Planning Inspectorate, Torrington District Council approved a further housing development in Buckland Brewer. This has completely undermined the original wishes of the community, who had already accepted a significant growth in housing development in the village. As of now, we see no end to the Local Plan becoming a reality and in the meantime, due to the length of time it is taking by the Government Planning Inspectorate to approve the Plan, we shall no doubt continue to see planning applications being made that were not included in the original Local Plan. It feels as if we have wasted nearly 5 years on a Local Plan that has lost all credibility.

Jim Lowe

Chair Buckland Brewer Parish Council