

From: Louise Phillips, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2010
To: Daniel Bech
Cc: Kate Jelly; Jim Kehoe; Christopher Thomas
Subject: **Core Strategy Examination**
- Changes to affordable housing threshold in RTW & Southborough and update

Thank you – we will record it as such.
Louise

From: Daniel Bech
Sent: 14 January 2010
To: Louise Phillips, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Cc: Kate Jelly; Jim Kehoe; Christopher Thomas
Subject: **Core Strategy Examination**
- Changes to affordable housing threshold in RTW & Southborough and update

Thank you Louise,

Yes, this is the formal answer for the RTW Town Forum regarding this position of the
LDF Core Strategy - Changes to Core Policy 6: Housing - Affordable housing provision

Daniel Bech
Community Champion
Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Forum
www.townforum.org.uk

P.S. - relevant to topics the RTW Town Forum considered,
please see as well our correspondence to Inspector Roy Foster:
<http://www.townforum.org.uk/consultation/ldfcorestrategyhearing041209.pdf>
The Tunbridge Wells Borough Local Development Framework
Core Strategy Submission Development Plan Document
Independent Examination – Core Policy 9 - "Development in Royal Tunbridge Wells"

Please contact me if there is a lack of understanding.

Daniel Bech
www.townforum.org.uk

From: Louise Phillips, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2010
To: Daniel Bech
Cc: Kate Jelly; Jim Kehoe
Subject: **Core Strategy Examination**
- Changes to affordable housing threshold in RTW & Southborough and update

Dear Dr Bech

Below is a copy of the email you sent to Mr Doe regarding the possible change to the affordable housing threshold in Royal Tunbridge Wells and Southborough as discussed at the Core Strategy Hearing Session on 15 December.

I know that you sent this message as a direct result of the hearing sessions and the Inspector will have received it. However, you will be aware that we have now formally consulted the public on this matter – letters were sent out on 11 January and responses are invited until 5 February. I was hoping you could clarify whether you would like us to take your email below as the Town Forum's formal response to the consultation, or whether you are now consulting with your Members and are likely to submit a further response?

Please contact me if you would like to discuss this.

Kind regards
Louise Phillips, Planning Policy Team Leader

From: Daniel Bech
Sent: 03 January 2010
To: Michael Doe; Jim Kehoe (TWBC, Head of Planning)
Subject: Tunbridge Wells LDF Core Strategy Submission - Independent Examination
- your letter to Philip Whitbourn / RTW Town Forum

Michael Doe Esq
Programme Officer
Core Strategy Examination Office
Town Hall,
Royal Tunbridge Wells, TN1 2NR

Dear Mr Doe

Tunbridge Wells LDF Core Strategy Submission – Independent Examination

Thank you for your letter of 22 December 2009.

We strongly agree with the preliminary conclusion reached by the Inspector, that the threshold of affordable housing in Royal Tunbridge Wells should be aligned with that for the rest of the Borough. There seems no sensible reason why the requirement in Royal Tunbridge Wells should be different from that in Paddock Wood, for example, and we hope that the Inspector's preliminary conclusion will be adhered to.

Indeed, we should think that it would be quite wrong if the planning system, through a more lenient provision, were to offer house-builders a financial inducement to indulge in further "garden grabbing" in Royal Tunbridge Wells, rather than developing suitable sites elsewhere in the Borough. – The RTW Town Forum questioned in the SHLAA consultation process the strong reliance of local planning on windfall sites and pointed out that we strongly disagree with any site size threshold and a laissez-faire approach to windfall sites for the good reasons of uncertainty for communities, developers and planners alike, touched upon in Government advice.

Yours sincerely

Daniel Bech
Community Champion

Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Forum
www.townforum.org.uk

cc: Jim Kehoe, TWBC, Head of Planning – for information
