STATEMENT TO THE PARISH COUNCIL · 21 OCTOBER 2026

Update from Local Development Committee for Parish Council

Read to the full Parish Council by the Vice-Chair of the Local Development Committee

Chair, councillors, thank you. My name is Katie White. I live on Hale Street and have lived in East Peckham since 2019. I am a resident member and Vice-Chair of the Local Development Committee, and I also coordinate the work for the Neighbourhood Development Plan. This is a Report on the processes and work of the Local Development Committee to ensure some matters of fact are clearly on the record.

The current work on the Neighbourhood Development Plan started as a result of advice received from a Barrister in September 2025.

Some of you will know the consultation meeting planned for 19 July was cancelled. That was because of two family emergencies, one of them mine: that Sunday I had major emergency surgery. While I have been recovering over the summer, the committee carried the work: the Church Lane Planning response, the new national planning policy framework in August, and TMBC's Regulation 19 consultation. That work was researched, drafted and checked by the committee with our planning consultant, not by any one person. I came back in near the end of the work. I explain this to highlight that the work is undertaken by the entire Committee and not by any one person in isolation.

The committee's membership has always been recorded in the minutes, and has been on the Parish Council website for many months. Every resident member is added by a vote at a public, minuted meeting that anyone can attend. Some of us have become friends through this work; many of us didn't know each other or regard each other as friends before joining the Committee. We debate, we disagree, and we take professional advice. That is how it should work, and there has been nothing improper about how the committee was formed or how it operates. I have offered to step aside, as Vice-Chair, as NDP coordinator, or from the committee altogether. The committee have so far asked me not to. The offer stands if the Council wishes it at any point. There are spaces remaining for resident members on the Committee, if anyone wishes to join.

People will disagree about how best to protect East Peckham, and they should be able to say so. We welcome challenge. I'd simply ask that we all do it with mutual courtesy and respect. I have seen written recently on EPR page that there should be "no threats, no lies and no nasty games". I agree, and I'd ask everyone in the village to hold to that.

To cover off some specific issues, the first of 6:

1 Questions

It has been said that we don't answer questions. Facebook threads aren't a good place for long, careful answers, so we have answered in writing: the Statement and Fact Checker in May, our briefing papers, and the October update some of which were delivered to every household. An update also confirming the open event on 7th November is being delivered shortly. All of them are on the Parish Council website. The information regarding the LDC and the NDP is extensive and updated. Public meetings are open for anyone to ask questions and challenge. To make that explicit, it was agreed at our most recent meeting that an additional agenda item would be included moving forward for public participation.

2 The 48 homes

TMBC has given every parish preparing a neighbourhood plan an indicative housing figure. Ours is 48 homes up to the year 2042, about three a year. The NDP does not create that figure. What it does is let the village decide where those homes go and what they look like, and a plan that allocates them gives East Peckham the strongest protection available against other speculative applications elsewhere. Nothing has been decided, and residents have the final say in a referendum.

3 Interests

These have been declared and minuted at our meetings since July 2025 and lodged with the Parish Clerk, even though there is no statutory framework for resident members. Full Council adopted a Conflicts of Interest Policy on 17 June this year, and anyone with an interest takes no part in related decisions.

4 Meetings

No committee meeting has ever been held at any member's home. Committee meetings are public and minuted, held here. Between meetings, task-group working sessions and admin work needed to progress projects and hit challenging deadlines have often been at my house, because we have tech equipment to support them.

5 Data and IT

My husband and I run a small IT consultancy, Oxygene Group Ltd, which is registered with the Information Commissioner. Under a simple written agreement with the Parish Council, which the Council can end at any time, the company provides, pro bono, some of the systems used to collate the evidence. The Parish Council has access and Parish Councillors were previously advised of the system, and it will now be demonstrated at the open day on 7 November, as we had to cancel 19th July.

6 A bribe

It has been suggested that a bottle of whisky was given to a resident as a bribe. In November last year I gave someone I considered a friend a bottle as a gesture of support during Regulation 18 work. This was at a time that was tumultuous for the LDC. At Christmas they kindly gave us whisky and chocolates in return. I offered a genuine gift and nothing more.

Please let me know if there are any other issues you would like clarifying. I'll answer what I can tonight. Anything I can't, I'll follow up in writing, and I'll be at the open day on 7 November. Thank you.