

21 September 2016

Meeting with representatives from Countryside Property Developers.

Present: Alex Milner, Curtin & Co; Dara Harnett, Countryside; Rosanna Metcalf, Savills.

Jo Parry, Judy Emanuel, Ted Denyer, Don Alexander, Howard Bowman,

The meeting was arranged by Countryside. Countryside declined a public meeting. They wanted to discuss the type of inducements Newport Village would like in return for building approximately 100 houses South of the village and West of Wicken Road. The land at present belongs to Inchcape Estates. The representatives of Countryside were at great pains to ensure we understood that they wanted dialogue with the NPC and to work with us on any future developments. They were keen to find out what amenities or facilities they could give the village.

The meeting remained cordial throughout but the Countryside team were a trifle dismayed when the following three points were emphatically explained:

- Any further development would be vigorously opposed.
- There were no facilities or amenities they could offer that the village required at its present size.
- That the proposed site was outside the village development area and it would be extremely unlikely that planning permission would be granted.

Jo Parry was unequivocal and extremely well informed. She clearly and articulately demolished their assertions that they would be able to build on the proposed site.

Don Alexander brought to the attention of Countryside that the area indicated on their plan included the parishes allotments. Countryside hastily pointed out that this was an error and that there was no intention to build on this part of the site. They even offered to assist in ensuring that the lease for this land from Inchcape would be renewed when the time came.

The meeting concluded on friendly terms but the team from Countryside departed a little less sure of the outcome than when they came in.

Had the meeting been held in public it would not have been as informative or as amicable. However it was felt that any future meetings with Countryside should probably be held in public.

Alex Milner commented that he dealt with many Parish Clerks throughout Essex, Cambridgeshire and Suffolk. He was particularly impressed by Christine Griffith. He felt she was competent, friendly and efficient. He felt that Christine was helpful and cooperative in dealing with his enquiries and was struck by her exceptional professionalism. These are Alex's words verbatim.

Howard Bowman