

## APPENDIX D

Jonathan Chowen - statement

Our Plan - Our Vision - Our District.

Our Plan: and we do need a Plan!

We have a UNIQUE opportunity, which we owe to Natural England's 'position statement' on Water Neutrality which pauses ALL Housing development in the District until a strategy can be found.

This is a golden opportunity to reset our housing numbers from the existing high government targets, recalculate our METHODOLOGY in line with this new evidence and be community led, rather than developer led.

Our aim is for residents to welcome development, not fear it.

There is a great deal in the current Plan we want to preserve.

We just need to go further and be bolder!

The district has been an easy target for excessively high numbers because unlike other areas we have lacked Planning restraints, such as those enjoyed by Chichester, Mid Sussex, Surrey Hills and the South Downs National Park & other nearby Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Our vibrant economy & high house prices make our district attractive to developers who want to call all the shots, often with no long term view of the impacts of their housing plans.

The old local plan (over which I resigned) had us building across the district. Plus at least one major strategic site of over 3500 houses. That is the equivalent of more than one side of Broadbridge Heath on the A24 every year until 2035.

Imagine how would that affect our District, it would be a huge building site for years, generating intolerable traffic, clogging up our roads and lanes.

Also more strain on our infrastructure, our schools, hospitals and surgeries.

And it would fundamentally change the very landscape of where we live.

Our Vision:

This will give HDC, the Parishes, villages and our market towns, the whole community the chance to really influence a TRULY community led Local Plan.

This Plan will focus on the individual needs of the villages and communities, their aspirations and priorities. We will speak as one voice and challenge high unsustainable housing numbers. We will as one voice speak to government and developers. We will work speedily through our sympathetic professional team of Planners at HDC to produce OUR PLAN & OUR VISION.

We must move quickly as the forces of reaction will gather, are gathering to push us in the wrong direction. There is so much money and powerful, VESTED interest aligned in favour of large scale house building, it will be a challenge and a fight. One. That I am willing to put

the resources of HDC at your disposal while we explore this unique opportunity. Win or lose let's have a go & try.!

We will take the current Neighbourhood Plans and open them up where possible to the new possibilities of the Environment Bill and new Government thinking on housing, sustainability and Beavers! This is only possible because of the PAUSE. And the new constraints of water neutrality and our new understanding of Nature Recovery Networks. WE will prioritise the challenges from climate change as we take the district with us on a journey of the possible instead of that of (Barrett's and Wimpy).

We must think of the next generation and their needs for affordable homes, starter homes and local jobs. To insist, that to free up homes, we need to provide for meaningful downsizing, bungalows and larger flats designed to accommodate the accumulated treasures of a lifetime, with wider doors and easily accessible fittings close to facilities, as less mobility creeps up on us. (I think the definition is life time homes) They should be water and carbon neutral and we should insist they tick all the environmental boxes and be future proof to boot. They are already expensive here but let's improve the sustainability and resilience of our community from all the challenges of climate change.

Our District:

Some of your residents would love "to preserve in aspic" their neighbourhood or village. Why wouldn't we. We live in a District often quoted as being one of the best places to live in England. We have lovely historic villages, beautiful countryside and better weather than most in a great location.

But we understand that you need to let your community live, grow and evolve otherwise they become moribund, unsustainable, with holiday homes & too many older residents. We need the laughter and excitement of children, the energy and enthusiasm of the young and the experience and wisdom of later years. This builds a thriving community, an exciting community, a diverse community, a sustainable community to preserve our way of life, our culture, our heritage, our wildlife and our environment. The very air we breathe and the water we drink.

So please ask your Parishes, Villages and Neighbourhoods "to go back and prepare for Our Plan - Our/NO,Your Vision as well for Our District.

Tell them: that if I am chosen as Leader of the Council, that Jonathan Chowen and his team will be coming to ask for your views.

So prepare your wish list!

Thank you very much for your time and listening to me, I promise to listen to YOU.