

STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Site Location: Land West of Edneys Hill, Barkham Hill

Proposal: Erection of 16 houses and apartments, with new access, footpaths, car ports, parking and landscaping



Abbeymill Homes

ESTABLISHED 1991

JULY 2025

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This Statement of Community Involvement has been prepared in support of a full planning application, for development of land west of Edneys Hill, Barkham Hill. The full description of development comprises the following:

“Erection of 16 houses and apartments with the construction of a new access off Edneys Hill, alongside footpaths, car ports, parking, landscaping and all enabling works”.

- 1.2 The purpose of community involvement in respect of planning applications is as follows:

Inform: to advise residents and stakeholders about planning applications, processes, and policies;

Engage: encourage early and continuous involvement through various channels;

Improve Plans: to allow community input to shape better application decisions.

2.0 Stakeholders and Engagement

- 2.1 The application site has previously been the subject of a number of planning applications where residents and stakeholders engaged in the process. These comments have been reviewed as part of developing this proposal for the site.
- 2.2 The following groups are considered key local stakeholders in the process:
- Immediate neighbours to the site including those nearby properties on Barkham Road;
 - Wokingham Borough Council;
 - Barkham Parish Council;
 - A range of technical stakeholders.
- 2.3 These stakeholders will have the opportunity to comment upon the planning application once it has been validated by the Local Planning Authority. The applicant will review and assess these comments during the application process to determine whether revisions to the proposal are necessary to address the concerns.
- 2.4 In response to previous planning applications on the site, the Parish Council maintained an objection being outside the settlement boundary as it was argued that the Council maintained a 5 year housing land supply. This is no longer the position with the Council acknowledging a significant shortfall that requires release of land beyond the defined settlement boundaries.
- 2.5 Barkham Parish Council has also previously indicated a need for affordable housing in the area, a type of housing now being proposed on this site helping to meet an identifiable local housing need.
- 2.6 Residents also previously raised concerns regarding the form of housing previously proposed – i.e. self builds. This proposal does not seek consent for self builds but more standardised housing to include market and affordable homes offering more public benefits. This change should also help address previous concerns with development of the site.

- 2.7 This planning application will be subject to a statutory consultation period of 21 days where statutory consultees and third parties are offered the opportunity to comment on the proposal.
- 2.8 The applicant will closely monitor the responses received to this consultation process to assess whether amendments to the proposal are going to be considered necessary. The applicant will work in consultation with the Local Planning Authority in undertaking such amendments to the application.

3.0 Conclusion

- 3.1 The application site has previously been subject to proposals for residential development where the views of local stakeholders and statutory consultees were made through the planning process.
- 3.2 The applicant has reviewed and responded to these previous concerns preparing a proposal which seeks to offer a wider range of public benefits, including housing more specific to the needs of the local area.
- 3.3 The applicant will monitor future consultation responses and in collaboration with the Local Planning Authority, determine whether further changes to the proposal will be required.