



(EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE UNTIL 17 JANUARY 2022)

Friday 14th January 2022

NEWS RELEASE FROM DORSET CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK (Dorset CAN)

17 January sees the launch of the ‘**Dorset Deserves Better**’ campaign:

This campaign aims to change the Dorset Local Plan, by which Dorset Council proposes to build over 39,000 new dwellings – plus roads, car parks & services – and encroach on our Green Belt, our famous Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty – AONB – and other locally valued greenfield land.

Thirty-eight (38) Dorset-based organisations – representing over 20,000 local people – have come together in a Campaign Alliance led by Dorset Climate Action Network (Dorset CAN) to press Dorset Council to **re-think** its damaging Local Plan.

In an Open Letter delivered to the Leader of Dorset Council, Cllr. Spencer Flower, the Campaign Alliance states that the draft Local Plan would:

- Do great harm to Dorset, through adverse impact on its natural environment, landscape and historical character
- Fall short of meeting the needs of Dorset’s population for the right houses in the right place at the right price
- Fail to face up to the global challenges of climate change and reversing the loss of wildlife.

The Campaign Alliance notes that many respondents opposed the Local Plan. “91 per cent of those represented in the public consultation rejected the development strategy at the heart of the Plan.” Instead, the Alliance suggests ways to transform the Local Plan into a visionary programme that enriches the county and serves the people of Dorset – especially the young and those most in need.

Michael Dower, of Dorset CAN, said: “We sincerely hope to persuade Dorset Council to deliver an optimistic and forward-looking Local Plan that values our landscape, supports environmental regeneration, provides affordable housing for local families, reduces our carbon footprint and encourages a thriving green economy in Dorset. We believe this can be done within the existing regulations and without wholesale destruction of our green spaces. We hope to work with Dorset Council to achieve this.”

ENDS

NOTES FOR EDITORS

Social Media Channels:

Instagram: [@dorset_can](#) (@dorset_can)

Snapchat - [@dorset_can](#) (@dorset_can)

Twitter - [@Dorset_CAN](#) (@Dorset_CAN)

Facebook Group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/147832150657785> - or search for Dorset CAN (Climate Action Network)

Facebook Page - <https://www.facebook.com/DorsetCAN> - or search for @DorsetCAN

DORSET DESERVES BETTER:

For general enquiries and communications, email: dorsetdeservesbetter@gmail.com

For media enquiries, email: mediadb@gmail.com

To view this news release and the Open Letter to Dorset Council, go to:

<https://www.dorsetcan.org/ddbpr>

Organisations and individuals can join the Dorset Deserves Better campaign at: <https://bit.ly/DorsetDB>

MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE -

To talk to Michael Dower, please call 01308 863515 (landline), mdower6@btinternet.com (email)

To talk to Giles Watts, please call 07840 061712 (mobile), wattsgft@gmail.com (email)

The Dorset Deserves Better Campaign is on our website at: <https://www.dorsetcan.org/ddb>



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