Address to Bigbury Parish Council on 12 July 2017

A Neighbourhood Plan event was held at the Memorial Hall on 17 June 2017. The purpose of this event was to inform the community of the results of the Housing Needs Survey following the publication of a report from South Hams District Council and to discuss how these housing needs could best be met.

The Housing Needs Survey Report states that as part of our Neighbourhood Plan the parish should be making provision for a development of 10-12 dwellings, primarily to meet local affordable housing needs.

St Ann's Chapel is the only 'sustainable village' and from the results of the questionnaire it was considered that this was the best place for this new development. This is also the view of South Hams Council.

Six sites around St Ann's Chapel were considered and those present were asked to vote via a secret ballot box on which site they preferred. The votes were as follows:

Site 1 (Site behind The Petit Pain, The Old Bakery and Old Chapel) = 0

Site 2 (to the rear of the Memorial Hall) = 4

Site 3 (adjacent to Hilltop) = 2

Site 4 (to the rear of The Holywell Stores) = 41

Site 5 (close to Holwell Farmhouse) = 0

Site 6 (to the rear of The Pickwick Inn) = 0

We will now progress further discussions with the local farmer, the District Council, a housing association or Community Trust with regard to this development and the site will be put forward as a site allocation in the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Steering Group together with other volunteers have also been carrying out studies of the villages of St Ann's Chapel, Bigbury Village, Bigbury on Sea and Challaborough and we would like the community's comments on these studies. I have copies of these studies with me today and we will also leave some in the Holywell Stores. They can also be accessed via the community website.

We will be leaving a comments box in the Holywell Stores or you can email your comments to our Chairman, Valerie Scott on valeriescott@bigbury.net.