



Sutton Poyntz Society

Affiliated to the Council for the Protection of Rural England (Dorset Branch)

This is a special Newsletter to tell members about proposals which have been submitted to the Weymouth and Portland Borough Council for variations in the Local Plan. They are proposed changes which will be considered, with the Plan, by an Inspector of the Department of the Environment. The Council is opposed to the variations and the Society has informed the Chief Planning Officer of our disapproval.

Briefly, the proposed variations as regards this area are:

- No 185 - on behalf of Mr Seale concerning land off Puddledock Lane
- No 241 - on behalf of Haven Holiday Camp concerning land at their site in Preston Road
- No 433 - on behalf of Miss J Pitman concerning land off Sutton Road and Puddledock Lane
- No 454 - on behalf of Mr Fisher concerning land off Puddledock Lane.

The purpose of the applications is to seek changes in the Plan so that the pieces of land concerned may be re-zoned as residential and thus ease any future applications for housing development. In indicating to the Chief Planning Officer that we were not in favour of the variations, the Society said:

Sutton Poyntz is one of the borough's tourist attractions and should be further enhanced, not made less attractive by unnecessary development. It is most important that, as has been stated by DoE Inspectors on appeals, the green wedge dividing the village from Preston should be preserved at all costs. Puddledock Lane itself has great natural charm which should not be destroyed.

The national monument of Chalbury Fort and its valley are of great beauty; they should never be built over. Similarly, on the Winslow Hill side of Sutton Poyntz any building would start a monstrous erosion on part of the unique Sutton pericline which is of outstanding natural beauty and landscape value.

As regards the Jordan Valley adjacent to the upper part of Puddledock Lane, the Society points out that, apart from the importance of the green wedge, the valley is most important for drainage when, as happened eleven months ago and has often in the past, serious flooding occurs in this area.

We know that the published changes in the Plan will be submitted to the DoE Inspector, along with comments received. Any member who wishes to make personal representations or comments on the changes, or any of them, should write to the Chief Planning Officer of the Council (at the Municipal Offices, North Quay, Weymouth, DT4 8TA) by 9th January 1995.

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The hatched area on the map shows those pieces of land where it is proposed that the development line be altered to allow building to take place.

