

Discussion with Planning Dept. on 6 March 1992. J.L., A.B., K.K.
Richard Burgess, S Williams, Debbie Scott (now i/c Preston and S.P.) Mr Ellis.
(visited Bldg. Office)

North Down Farm

PD said discussions have been going on with Saunders' architects etc about proposals for conversion of some barns. Farmhouse would be retained; possible conversions of adjacent building (now garage etc), building to South (site of former court house) and barns/cowsheds at rear. PD stressed need for structural surveys before acceptance that conversions are possible, and also a proper agricultural assessment as to likely need for the buildings - essential not to approve developments if future farm owner would then find it necessary to apply to erect others.

The garage building could be treated separately if need be. Roof timbers are sound and there appears to be evidence that the building was once thatched (AB undertook to try to trace photograph to show this). SPS asked that thatch might be a requirement - PD did not appear to demur. Reference made by SP reps to satisfactory use of thatch on some of the new cottages at Osmington, and RB thought that development was pleasing.

As to barns/cowsheds, PD referred to various recommendations (e.g. Rural Dev. Comm) on conversions which might be for either dwellings or light industry. Architect had provisionally proposed 5 units; PD thought 2 or 3 more appropriate, and thought needed to be given to the back parts of the buildings. PD thought that ancient roof must be retained - if anything has to be done, it should be only to provide skylights. SPS reps referred to satisfactory conversion of the Cart Shed.

The architects are thinking over the points made to them by PD. The planners will continue to bear in mind the whole concept in relation to S.P. and also Osmington, as the fields between the two villages are of great importance to both.

Land between Farmhouse and Springhead

PD thought development there could be resisted because of the importance of the view to White Horse etc. It might be possible to define this more clearly in the Local Plan?

Land between Morlands and Littlecot, Plaisters Lane

This is the only "gap" in Plaisters Lane beyond Morlands and it might be difficult to resist housing development there at some future date.

Field off Plaisters Lane, adjacent to Waterworks

Mr Burgess felt this field was "safe from development". Open spaces are very important especially in conservation areas.

Mission Hall Lane; land opposite the hall

No definite proposals so far from architects. SPS made the point about refusal to allow development on the other side of the lane (confirmed on appeal) because of access difficulty.
