

New sites to boost affordable housing

POOLE Council is to investigate using its own land to provide much-needed affordable housing in the borough.

Sites have not yet been identified but full council has approved proposals to deliver 100 new affordable homes over the next four years.

The provision of affordable housing is one of the key priorities of the council, identified in its corporate strategy.

The Homes and Community Agency is inviting the registered providers of affordable housing to submit bids for money to help them fund more homes.

If successful the HCA grant would be around £20,000 for each new affordable home.

With the council's commitment to provide the land, the HCA has indicated it would support a bid for 175 new homes in Poole, 75 of which could be provided in the town centre/Lower Hamworthy regeneration area.

By Diana Henderson

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Officers will now look at council-owned land that could be suitable, throughout the borough.

The council says use of its land would be considered an investment in its priority of providing affordable homes, even though little or no capital receipt would be returned to the council for the land.

Cllr Mike White, cabinet portfolio holder for planning and regeneration, said: "Securing affordable housing remains one of the council's highest priorities.

"Delivering new affordable homes in an economic downturn is particularly challenging which is why I am delighted that the council is putting in place this initiative in partnership with the HCA to identify where new homes might be able to be provided within Poole."



DELIGHTED: Cllr Mike White
Picture: Sally Adams

Grab some wheels to raise money for Pudsey



WITH less than 100 days to go before a charity rally heads off to Rome, organisers are offering one team a car to use for the event.

The Euro Rally 33 has been organised by Wimborne-based Charity Road Trips and will raise cash for six children's charities and the BBC Children in Need appeal.

Cars will have a Pudsey bear theme and organisers are offering one team that registers during August or September the chance to bag themselves a yellow convertible car ready to go. Find out more at eurorally33.org.

The NEWS in brief

Quiz council over plans

VERWOOD: Residents have the chance to quiz Hampshire County Council officers about the Blue and Purple Haze proposals on Wednesday.

The council is hosting an exhibition on its Minerals and Waste Management Plan at the Memorial Hall, Ringwood Road, from 11am – 3pm and 4pm – 9pm.

Question and answer sessions will be held at 4.30pm and 7.30pm.

The draft Hampshire Minerals and Waste plan goes to the council's Cabinet in September and full council in October.

Library open day

WEST MOORS: The local library is holding an open day in September.

People are welcome to pop into the library, in Station Road, from 10am – 12.30pm on Saturday, September 10.

Visitors will be able to meet organisations that use the library, take a look around the mobile library and enjoy refreshments.

There will also be activities for children.

Call 01202 873272 for details.

Find the ball

COUNTY: This week's Find the Ball jackpot now stands at £18,000. No-one won last week's top prize, but June Ashby of Southampton was awarded the £1,550 runner-up prize for coming the closest.

Find the Ball appears in four Newsquest titles each week and last year paid out more than £182,800 in prize money.

Two collisions

POOLE: Traffic backed up around the Bakers Arms roundabout on the A35 yesterday, following two separate collisions.

Dorset Police were alerted to two minor collisions in the area just before 11am.

No-one was injured in either collision, and police left both scenes by 11.30am.

Lifeboat launch

SWANAGE: The RNLI lifeboat rushed to the assistance of a yacht that had fouled its propeller in the early hours of Sunday.

The yacht, which raised the alarm six miles east of Peveril Point, was towed back to Swanage.