

## APPENDIX J.

Interview: 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2013  
Councillor Ian Robinson

1. Councillor Robinson has been a member of Northill Parish Council for 3 years and was elected as a Parish Council Member for Upper Caldecote. Councillor Robinson outlined the background to the Affordable Housing Issue which had caused controversy at the Parish Council Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2013. Alternative sites had been proposed for affordable housing within the Parish.
  - 1.1 Ickwell Road in the centre of the village. This site appeared to be favoured by the Parish Council and local residents, it was in the centre of the village and close to local amenities.
  - 1.2 Biggleswade Road – This was an alternative site that had been proposed on the edge of the village adjacent to No.108 Biggleswade Road
2. At a meeting of the Parish Council on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2013 Planning Officers from Central Bedfordshire Council attended to discuss with me affordable housing sites. This had resulted in a decision by the Planning Sub-Committee of the Parish Council to recommend the Biggleswade Road Site.
3. Councillor Robinson was not clear why this alternative site was being recommended as there were certain problems associated with this site. There were issues to do with sale of the site. It was on a dangerous bend, there were unsuitable ground conditions and the site was often waterlogged due to it being a former gravel pit. At the Parish Council Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2013 the owner of [REDACTED] attended the meeting to address the Parish Council and gave a written presentation. A number of local residents also attended the meeting as they were concerned about the decision of the Parish Council Planning Committee to recommend the Biggleswade Road Site.
4. When asked about whether he felt he had an interest he should declare on the issue of the affordable housing. Councillor Robinson replied that although the site under discussion was about 5 houses away from his property he had no objections in principle to the affordable housing being in this location although he hoped that the access to the site would not go behind his property. Councillor Robinson stated that at the meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2013 he had been representing the views of the local residents particularly those in the bungalows in Swallowfield who lived opposite the proposed site and were concerned about the extra traffic that would be generated in this location.
5. At item 9.1 of the minutes of the previous meeting (25<sup>th</sup> March 2013) Councillor Robinson asked the Chair why Ickwell Road Site had not been progressed and why the alternative site in Biggleswade Road had been selected. Councillor Robinson stated that none of the local residents had seen the planning minutes from the meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2013. Normal procedure is for the minutes of the meeting to be approved by the Chair and Vice Chair at Northill Parish Council and they will then be published on the website. Leanne Bacon the Clerk had been on leave and this had

delayed publication of the minutes and Councillor Robinson felt that had the minutes been available the members of the public at the meeting would have been in a better position to ask questions and this is why Councillor Robinson had taken up the issues at the meeting.