

## Halstock Leigh Development – Current Position

The planning application for the Halstock Leigh site was submitted on 31 July 2026, with works then commencing on Friday 7 August, before the application had been validated. More than seven weeks later, the application still has not been validated, meaning nothing appears on the planning portal, no consultation period has started, and no statutory notices have been issued.

Because works began before validation, development has continued without permission being in place, and the situation has effectively become retrospective in practice. The ongoing development has caused noise, disruption and understandable concern among nearby residents, including reports of activity at unsocial hours and uncertainty about what is taking place. Dorset Council has said the matter is being handled through its planning and enforcement processes, but no enforcement action has been taken.

The Parish Council has engaged on several occasions with Dorset Council, raising concerns about the ongoing works, the absence of notices, and the need for clarity on enforcement. We have also highlighted the relevance of the restrictive covenant, which was imposed for environmental and landscape reasons and remains an important consideration.

Earlier this month, several councillors met with our MP, Edward Morello, and the Ward Councillor to discuss the situation. Both are now actively involved and have been in contact with Dorset Council. The MP has encouraged residents to report concerns directly to the Council and has raised the matter with senior officers. He arranged a meeting with the Chief Executive, although this has since been delayed and a new date is awaited.

Dorset Council has said that the application is still awaiting validation and that resident reports will form part of their evidence base. The next formal step will be publication of the application once validation is complete.

Until that happens, the Parish Council cannot take a formal position on the development. We will continue to monitor the situation, maintain contact with Dorset Council, the MP and the Ward Councillor, and prepare to review the application once it is available. We will also provide guidance to residents on how to submit their own comments during the consultation period.