Allocation of New Homes Bonus
Consultation July – September 2011

Special Parish Forum Meeting – 15th September 2011 – Outcomes

Structured Group Discussions
Part 1 – The mechanism/process for allocating resources - options
  i)   Cheque to Parish Council and signed commitment (based on agreed criteria)
  ii)   HBBC holds the funds, and the Parish Submits the project to the authority
  iii) An alternative Parish fund is created

Outcomes
  o Funds should be allocated directly to the Parish Council with no strings, based on new homes rateable in that year
  o Only Parishes that take new homes get the new homes bonus payment
  o Parishes to receive 30% contribution not 20% and negotiated on an annual basis
  o Payments to be rolled over year on year for bigger developments
  o Utilisation of Neighbourhood Development Plans, and 'Exception Sites' for those Parishes who don't have developments within their boundaries
  o Local community to have full control over how funds are spent

Structured Group Discussions
Part 2 – Apportionment Criteria

  i)   New dwellings 'completed' within a financial year
  ii)   New Council Tax accounts in place
  iii) Existing dwellings – vacant buildings

Outcomes
  o Allocation should be on the basis of new council tax accounts in place – easy to check and monitor, easy to account for
  o Each year HBBC sends the Parish Council a statement of how many new council tax accounts have been initiated in the previous 12 months, and remits the subsequent appropriate NHB to the Parish Council

Other comments/views fed back:

  o Policies won't be consistent over 5 years and this needs to be taken into account
  o Developers will use NHB as an incentive to pay P.P.
  o Business Rates – HBBC get 15%, if economic growth occurs HBBC will get the 100% of the increase over and above 15%

- Every parishioner should be informed of how much NHB is received by each Parish Councillor
- For accountability purposes HBBC should report on how it has spent its percentage of NHB is spent on, and the Parish Councils report on how it has spent its allocation of NHB