



Clarification on the Village Shop Survey and Developer Communications - June 2026

In light of recent comments on social media regarding 1) the village shop feasibility survey and 2) a proposed housing development on Priory Field, Helmdon Parish Council is issuing this statement to ensure all residents have access to accurate facts.

The recent shop feasibility survey was compiled by a parish council working group consisting of Councillor Liz Hart, Councillor Jo Fitzroy-Ezzy, and several residents as a direct follow-up to the 2025 Parish Plan. This community-led initiative is strictly intended to gauge potential local demand for a community shop and carries absolutely no connection to, or alignment with, any commercial developer or landowner.

Regarding the Priory Field development, HPC was contacted after the public consultation in February 2026 by Orchestra Land and their planning agents, Johnson Mowat Planning Ltd. The developer outlined a revised scheme reduced from 35 to 26 homes, suggesting the inclusion of a village shop and parking space. The Parish Council formally advised the developers that because the Village Shop Working Group was only just establishing its Terms of Reference, the council could not engage in joint discussions or share information at such a preliminary stage. The parish council suggested that Orchestra Land should hold a further public consultation but nothing more was heard until the parish council was notified in late May 2026 by West Northamptonshire Council that a planning application had been submitted.

The parish council will not compromise its legal right to objectively scrutinise and comment on planning applications on behalf of the community. Keeping a strict, objective distance during these pre-planning phases ensures that the community's assessment of its own needs remains entirely uninfluenced by commercial proposals.

All residents are warmly invited to attend a public meeting being held at 10:00am on Saturday 13 June 2026 in the Reading Room, where the council will continue its commitment to ensuring that any future development in the parish is proportionate, transparent, and driven strictly by community need and public consensus.

Cllr Danny Moody
Chair, Helmdon Parish Council