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**Press Release**

**Thursday 20th August 2015**

**MP attends packed meeting at Willersey Village Hall to discuss sale of Glebe Land for Housing**

**Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, Member of Parliament for The Cotswolds attended a meeting at Willersey Village Hall on Wednesday 19th August 2015, which was absolutely packed, with standing room only, to hear Lord (Geoffrey) Dear’s summary of the current situation in the Village. The meeting was good tempered and expertly chaired by Lord Dear (former Chief Constable West Midlands).**

**Much of the meeting was highly technical regarding the service of a notice to transfer Glebe Land from one Church body to another. The three key people involved failed to consult with the parish and hence the date for objections was missed. Apparently the developers did have a site meeting a few days before the deadline but no one knew anything about it.**

**The plan is to apply for 100 homes on 35 acres, however in a meeting with the Diocesan Secretary, who is masterminding all of this, it was admitted to Lord Dear that 100 homes was only a start and they intended to turn Willersey into a town bigger than Broadway next door.**

**To put this into context the consultation process for the Cotswold Local Plan envisaged that the village of Willersey should have 85 new houses over the next 16 years, 75 of which have either already been built or have planning permission.**

**Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP became involved when the retired vicar, The Revd Dr A.E Harvey, wrote to him recently to let him know about the unease in the village over this whole matter.**

**Commenting after the meeting Geoffrey Clifton-Brown said “Prior to the public meeting at Willersey Village Hall, I had taken these concerns up with the Rt Hon Caroline Spelman MP, Second Church Estates Commissioner, who provided me with a copy of the First Church Estates Commissioner, Sir Andreas Whittam Smith’s response to The Revd Harvey regarding his concerns.**

**“It emerged at the meeting last night that Sir Andreas Whittam Smith’s letter to The Revd Harvey was inundated with inaccuracies and I will be pointing this out to the First Church Estate Commissioner and asking him to put a stop on the whole process until the parish can be properly consulted.”**

ENDS

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