

JOINT PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY

Hassocks & Hurstpierpoint Liberal Democrats
Hassocks & Hurstpierpoint Labour Party
The Mid Sussex Green Party

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**HASSOCKS LIB DEMS, LABOUR AND GREENS UNITED IN URGING
RESIDENTS TO RESPOND TO THE MODIFIED DISTRICT PLAN**

Tory dominated Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) has rushed through modifications to its District Plan which will see 500 new houses built to the North of Hassocks. Lib Dems, Labour and Greens all agree that Mid Sussex needs new homes. However, this proposal has been poorly thought out, due process has not been followed, and as a result it contains serious deficiencies.

Local activists from the three opposition parties are working together to make sure that all residents are aware of these proposals¹ and understand that the only way to get their voices heard is to submit a response² to the Public Consultation by 13th November. Details are available at www.midsussex.gov.uk/districtplan.

Hassocks District Councillor Sue Hatton (Lib Dem) who was the only district councillor to vote against the modified plan said: "Hassocks residents only have a couple of weeks to respond to this proposal. It is vital that they take this opportunity to make it clear why this development would be a disaster for Hassocks."

Hassocks Labour Party Chair, Will Matthews also commented: "All three parties agree that more homes are needed in Mid Sussex, however such a drastic development shows complete disregard for our Neighbourhood Plan which identified areas where housing would be acceptable and sustainable to our community."

Mike Airey, Coordinator, Mid Sussex Green Party added, "Hassocks is already a pollution hotspot, with Stonepound Crossroads being the most polluted junction in Mid Sussex. Adding more than 500 vehicles to the community can only have a damaging effect upon residents' health, quality of life, and the precious ecology of the South Downs National Park that borders the village."

The three parties are producing a joint leaflet outlining how to make a submission to the Public Consultation³. This will be available on their social media and web pages, and will be available as a hard copy to take away from shops and businesses in Hassocks.

ENDS

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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NOTES TO EDITORS

The deadline for submitting responses is 13 November

1. To learn more about the proposal:

- Details can be found at www.midsussex.gov.uk/districtplan
- Read the 'Schedule of Modifications' document specifically DP9b pages 24-27
- Read the 'Guidance notes for making representations on the main modifications to the district plan' document

2. There are three ways to respond:

- Via an EForm at: www.midsussex.gov.uk/districtplan
- By email: LDFconsultation@midsussex.gov.uk
- In writing: Planning Policy & Economic Development, Mid Sussex District Council, Oaklands Road, Haywards Heath, RH16 1SS

3. The public must state in their response whether the modifications are 'sound' and/or 'legally' compliant. Considerations that the public may find helpful include:

- Serious strategic flaws
 - Accessibility – the site has a single point of access onto Ockley Lane which will service the travel movements of more than 500 cars
 - Public safety – there is no bridge over the railway line to the north of Hassocks, just a footpath over the line
 - Environmental – additional traffic movements will worsen pollution in the village which is already a hotspot for congestion at Stonepound Crossroads
- Underplayed assessments of
 - The proximity of this development to the South Downs National Park. The eastern boundary of the proposed site is less than 500 meters from the National Park
 - The erosion of the strategic gap with Burgess Hill. There will be little more than 1 km between the edges of Hassocks & Burgess Hill
 - Strain on public services, schools and medical services