

Notes of special HALC meeting on 03.02.2015 re Planning Inspector's response to Horsham District Planning Framework.

Talk given by Barbara Childs, Head of Strategic Planning and Sustainability at HDC:

- 8 page letter from Inspector gave general support to Framework, only issue raised was over number of houses
- He felt the three main locations to be developed should be Horsham, Southwater and Billingshurst, in that order
- He felt unless LGW expands the proposed new town of Mayfield is not needed and is not necessarily in the right place
- The framework planned for 650 homes pa for the 20 years from 2011 to 2031 ie 13,000 in all and space for these has been largely identified. Inspector feels 750 - 800pa may be needed ie 16,000 over the 20 years. HDC has 6 months to identify the extra land.
- HDC is vulnerable to development as there is little designated AONB or National Park area
- HDC is now calling for sites and looking for employment and housing land and during February will receive new statistics on household numbers. They are looking for sites to take 100-200 houses and re-examining the density of proposed developments in North Horsham and Southwater.
- Any new proposals will be debated by HDC on 18th march and then a period of public consultation will follow from 23rd March to 5th May.
- All documentation will be on the HDC website and HDC officers will come out to talk to affected areas during the consultation period.
- The aim is to have the Planning Framework and the CIL adopted by the end of 2015.
- Target for neighbourhood plans in the District is still to take 1500 homes overall. 60% of HDC area is now preparing neighbourhood plans. Both Nick Muggridge and Nick Mills were also present representing SWAB.
- If LGW does expand that will be a step change and the Framework would have to be revised within 5 years.
- On a different subject HDC is moving offices and will have a lot of furniture that parish councils, charities and small businesses can apply for. A dedicated website is being set up shortly to explain what is available and how to request it.

Gill Muncey 04.02.15