

Judy Holmes  
Deputy Chief Executive  
Mid Sussex District Council



5<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Dear Ms Holmes

As members of Albourne Parish Council, we listened with interest to the Planning and Scrutiny Committee discussion on 15<sup>th</sup> March at which responses to the District Plan were discussed, and noted that 417 (or nearly 32%) of all respondents commented on the “Sayers Village” site which the Council calls “Land south of Reeds Lane”. This is actually all land within Albourne Parish, specifically excluded from development as a strategic gap to Sayers Common in the Albourne Neighbourhood Plan (2016).

We are very aware, as you emphasised in your comments to Councillors, that the only basis for revision of the Plan proposed in Reg 18 is either a change in requirements (as may arise from changes to the NPPF due in the Spring) or on the basis of evidence that leads to adjustments to the scoring on the site selection criteria. We believe that the responses provided by Albourne Parish Council and others, focused substantially on matters that were not adequately evidenced and will lead to adjustments to scoring; and concerns about Infrastructure. In relation to the latter, we were concerned to read in the summary that all the providers supporting the Infrastructure Development Plan have indicated that they will be able to meet the demands created by the development when we know that, locally, their performance is failing.

However, we were delighted by the commitment of the Council to have its officers “positively engage with ... Parish Councils prior to the Reg 19 process”; and not to rely solely on engagement with Site Promoters for assistance on identifying and securing appropriate evidence in response to matters raised in the Consultation. We also believe that, as part of the Plan-making process, this should also include consideration of the risk that IDP partners fail to deliver, which is an issue that will vary between sites and will want to understand how this will be evaluated.

To that end, as one of the Parishes most affected by developments we would like to offer to meet with officers on a regular basis as needed, in order to ensure that Albourne Parish Council understand where additional evidence is being developed and how it may affect the selection criteria scoring; and to work with MSDC Planning to establish a Plan that local residents can feel engaged with and support.

We look forward to hearing from you.

*Albourne Parish Council*

Cc : District Councillor Kristy Adams

County Councillor Joy Dennis

Mims Davies, MP