

**MID SUSSEX DISTRICT PLAN 2021 – 2039 EXAMINATION
STAGE 1 HEARING STATEMENT
FROM THE HURSTPIERPOINT SOCIETY
RESPONDENT NUMBER 1186922**



Matter 1 : Legal and Procedural Requirements

Issue 1 : Whether the Plan has been prepared in line with the relevant legal requirements and procedural matters?

Sustainability Appraisal

Point 6

Hurstpierpoint Society acknowledges the challenges for Mid Sussex District Council to find sites for the proposed number of homes, within an area that has 3 main towns but is otherwise, a mainly rural area. This is exacerbated by the AONB to the north and the South Downs National Park to the south.

However, we believe these constraints have led to a situation where the Environmental Assessments in the Sustainability Appraisal are not always sound. Despite ourselves and others providing detailed responses in Regulation 18 and 19 submissions, local knowledge of areas continues to be ignored when assessing the impacts on roads, infrastructure and biodiversity within and around the Parish of Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common.

The reasons why we think the scoring methodology is inaccurate and unsound are given in our Regulation 19 Response, paras 2.1 to 2.20, together with the submitted Highway Report for Hurstpierpoint. We accept the Highway Report is limited and should be a starting point for an urgent, more comprehensive study.

Having made this information available in our response, we would now like to see further work carried out and revisions made to the Sustainability Appraisal.

Point 9

Hurstpierpoint Society has raised concerns about the Sustainability Assessment but had no response to these matters.

Other matters

Point 18

Hurstpierpoint Society is concerned that many policies in the Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan have been disregarded, despite the Parish Council investing a considerable amount of time and money in its preparation.

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Matter 4 : Transport

Issue 1 : Whether the Plan is justified, effective and consistent with national policy in relation to transport.

Point 48

Regarding the site allocations in and around Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common, we are concerned that the infrastructure improvements required for sustainability will not sufficiently reduce the impact on rural roads, especially within the village of Hurstpierpoint. The level of infrastructure detailed in Policies DPSC1 and DPSC3-7 is commendable, but it is difficult to see how this can be completed in a timely fashion to avoid a significant adverse impact on the roads within the Parish. Unless there is a reliable, frequent public transport system, more usually seen within larger towns and cities, there will inevitably be a reliance on private motor cars.

Point 50

Even with the level of infrastructure in Policies DPSC1 and DPSC3-7, until/unless this is completed, people will need to use healthcare, education facilities, etc outside the proposed areas. With the additional need to travel to railway stations to reach employment destinations, these will all add to the burden on the local roads.

Point 51

It is difficult to see how the impact on the local road network can be removed even if there was unlimited funding and a willingness to meet the timing requirements of providing the necessary infrastructure. This concern is supported by the Regulation 19 representations by West Sussex County Council.

In order to mitigate the problems arising from the amount of infrastructure needed, Hurstpierpoint Society has suggested modifications in our Regulation 19 representation:

- DPSC GEN: significant Site Requirements - Page 12, para 6.4
- DPI 1: Infrastructure Provision - Page 20, para 10.5