



# Hurstpierpoint Society Newsletter – Autumn 2016

Charity No. 263520

## Mid Sussex District Plan 2014-2031 – update

The District Plan will be the main planning document used by the District Council when considering planning applications. It will cover the period to 2031 and includes the strategy, proposed level of development and a number of planning policies. The plan includes many policies retained from the existing Local Plan (2004), which will be replaced by the new District Plan.

Consultations on the Pre-Submission Draft District Plan were held between June and July 2015 and the Council then made amendments to the Plan to ensure it meets the needs of Mid Sussex residents and businesses, while also protecting the unique character and diversity of the towns and villages.

The District Plan 2014-2031 was submitted to the Government on the 17th August 2016 for an independent examination by the Planning Inspectorate. However, the latest news (mid September 2016) on Mid Sussex District Council's website is that:

*“The Inspector is aware that Document BP1 of the submitted Mid Sussex District Plan contains proposed modifications which have not been subject to consultation. These modifications do not arise from consultation and are substantial in nature as they include changes to the affordable housing requirement and a substantial reduction in the quantum of housing available to meet other authorities’ unmet needs. The Inspector is considering the matter and will be writing to the Council shortly on this and a number of other issues arising from the submitted plan.”*

However, to be fair to MSDC, in his covering letter accompanying the submission, Chris Tunnell, MSDC's Interim Head of Economic Promotion and Planning said:

*“...These [modifications] have not be subject to public consultation but would need to be consulted upon alongside any further modification that you may wish to make in order to make the Plan sound.”*

Clearly this may, yet again, change the timetable of the examination process, which was anticipated to have hearing sessions in Autumn 2016, with the adoption of the District Plan in Winter 2016. However, this does beg the question; just how many more consultations are required for this plan, at what public cost and how long will this take?

To view these changes in detail, and for updates on the progress of the District Plan, they are available on Mid Sussex District Council's website. Use the QR Code (right) or go to: <http://bit.ly/2cLLOHG>



With a continued absence of an up to date 'Plan', and therefore no current 5-year housing land supply, our rural communities remain vulnerable to speculative development. Local policies for the supply of housing are deemed to be 'out-of-date' until this situation is resolved and *The Plan* adopted.

However, there is also a Bill going through Parliament to give more weight to Neighbourhood Planning and we await the outcome of this and further changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Goal posts are currently in transit...

## ***Planning Applications in Hurstpierpoint***

The committee monitors all planning applications made locally. The vast majority are noted and no action taken. Some, such as the applications to improve and restore the listed Clifford Lodge, have led to a letter of support being sent to Mid Sussex District Council's planning department.

If the committee considers that an application would be detrimental to the village, the Society writes a letter of objection. We have recently objected to two applications for developments almost opposite each other on Hassocks Road, for a house in the garden of 31 Hassocks Road and for two semi-detached houses on the tennis court of Wych House.

Reasons for objections vary, but they include overlooking and infringement of the privacy of a neighbouring property, road safety considerations, the loss of open space, and contravention of MSDC policies, including the Neighbourhood Plan, such as building in a Countryside Area of Development Restraint.

Residents of Hurstpierpoint are welcome to contact the Society's Secretary, David Clarke, if they are concerned about a planning application using the Society's email address [hurstsociety@gmail.com](mailto:hurstsociety@gmail.com) or by telephone 01273 835200.

## ***Hurstpierpoint Countryside Open space.***

There are no doubt differing views about the new housing development now proceeding around the Village but one of the undoubted advantages secured during the Neighbourhood Plan process by our Parish Council is the creation of new open spaces for the public.

There are 2 areas involved. One is around the Little Park housing development and includes 30 acres of meadow and 10 acres of woodland which lie to the north of the Millennium Garden with fine views north toward Hurst College. The second is 9 acres of meadow to the north of Highfield Drive and west of the College Lane conservation area.



It is expected that the land to the north of Highfield Drive (see photo above taken from the new houses being built) will be transferred to our Parish during this winter and Little Park land during 2017. The parkland comes with funds both to undertake preparatory work but also for ongoing maintenance over 20 years. It will be managed by a Committee consisting largely of Parish Councillors but advised by a Board of local interest groups including Hurstpierpoint Society & Sussex Wildlife Trust as well as 5 members of the public. The scheme is underpinned by a detailed Landscape & Ecological Management Plan with various aims including managing the parkland in a natural and low maintenance fashion to create a pleasant local amenity and increase local biodiversity and habitats. Tensions can arise between these objectives but it is believed these can successfully managed. There will be little or no hard landscaping but there will be dog and litter bins with some benches and signs provided. Ultimately it is hoped to create a heritage trail joining existing footpaths and rights of way and explaining local history, points of interest and nature conservation projects. It is expected young people and local schools will embrace the opportunities this new parkland provides.

## ***New swimming pool cover for St Lawrence School***

Hurstpierpoint Society has given a grant of £2500 to the school as a contribution to a swimming pool cover similar to the photo (right).

We have received the following letter of thanks:

*“From children, staff and governors at St Lawrence School - a warm “thank you” to the Hurstpierpoint Society for the generous grant that will help us improve the school swimming pool.*



*We know how important it is for children to learn to swim. St Lawrence School has its own swimming pool. But with the increase in numbers of children at the school, the pool needs to be covered so that all the children can have a lesson every week.*

*The heating and chemical dosing equipment needs to be updated. With these improvements, we can continue to ensure that all the children can swim, with confidence and enjoyment, before they leave the school.*

*The benefits of the pool improvement will be there for the whole community as well. The school will offer the pool to local qualified instructors, for swimming lessons and fitness classes. There will be sessions for babies, children and adults.*

*Here’s what the NHS website says about the benefits of swimming: “Swimming is a great form of exercise. It’s ideal if you want to be more active and stay healthy. Swimming can reduce the risks of heart disease, diabetes, and stroke. It can boost your mood and keep your weight under control.”*

*Hurstpierpoint is a lively and growing community, with a great range of facilities for its residents. The grant from the Hurstpierpoint Society means that we will soon have a swimming pool available to us as well. Many thanks.”*

Tim Moulds, for the Governors of the School.

## ***Gatwick Airport 2<sup>nd</sup> Runway?***

The argument over the expansion of England’s airport capacity is well known. Following the Brexit referendum and change of Prime Minister in June, the decision was put on hold and is now expected to be announced in the Parliamentary session starting 10th October 2016.

The Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign has been vigorous in its opposition and they have written to the Transport Secretary warning that if the Government were to choose Gatwick without a cast-iron case, they would consider seeking judicial review. You can read its arguments on its website [GACC.org.uk](http://GACC.org.uk)

Certainly we would not want greater demand for more housing in Hurstpierpoint. Our local rail link to London from Hassocks is already frequently unreliable and over-crowded. Road links to the airport would need to be greatly improved without there being greater congestion on the A23/M23 and the southern arc of the M25.

## ***New members and collectors***

The fundamental intention of the Society is to watch over what goes on in our beautiful downland village and to ensure that nothing is allowed to encroach on its boundaries without permission or consideration.

Our membership application form states on the cover *"Our Village is in YOUR hands"*. We want our members to be vigilant and pro-active and to report anything that concerns them or alternatively anything, which should be publicised. Committee Members can be contacted and their details are on our website.

We are mindful that we live in a village, which was not designed for life in the 21st Century, but we must conserve the historic features of the village, which give it its unique character and also ensure that we are receptive to development and to change. The Society is working hard to preserve the local gaps not only between Hassocks but equally to the north and west of the village. We recognize that more houses need to be built but they must be sited in suitable locations and must be restricted in numbers to accord with the Neighbourhood Plan.

We are particularly keen to attract new members in the newly developed parts of the village because not all newcomers know the area, or what goes on in and around the village. Society membership fees are: Annual Single £2.00, Couple £3.00. Life Single £20.00, Life Couple £30.00.

We have lost 7 collectors/distributors this year mainly due to increasing age and health problems, so Sue Deane, our membership secretary, is actively looking for new collectors in the Marchants Road and Wilderness Road area, Cuckfield Road, Orchard Way and Brown Twins Road. If you have some time to spare to deliver 2 newsletters per year and to collect subscriptions either in the spring or autumn, then please get in touch with Sue Deane our Membership Secretary - Tel: 01273 833363 or email: [sgdeane@gmail.com](mailto:sgdeane@gmail.com)

If you would like to support the Society, a membership form can be obtained from our website [hurstpierpointsociety.org.uk](http://hurstpierpointsociety.org.uk) or you can contact Sue Deane, as above.

## ***And finally - an update following the AGM 2016***

We said farewell to the President of the Society, Lady Barnes as she was imminently to leave the village. Lady Barnes was thanked for her years as an active member of the Society, She spoke of the changes she had seen since 1953 and encouraged the Society to continue to work on behalf of the community of Hurstpierpoint.

Our Vice President, Wendy Rogers has been invited to take over the role of President and was honoured to accept this. Wendy has taken a keen interest in the village since moving here at the end of the 1960's and has previously been Chairman of the Society

Lyn Williams has returned to the Committee as Chairman following Patrick Kehoe stepping down in December. Patrick has overseen the tree planting project since its start in 2011 and will continue with this for its final year, although we are still accepting donations and will continue to look for ad hoc places to plant new trees. We wish to thank Patrick on behalf of the residents in Hurstpierpoint for the big difference he has made to the village verges.

Our new committee is shown below and we welcome John Lowman as the Parish Council representative.

*Patron:* Mrs Judy Parfitt      *President:* Mrs Wendy Rogers

### **Committee:**

*Chairman:* Mrs Lyn Williams, *Hon. Treasurer:* Mr Patrick Haworth, *Hon. Secretary:* Mr David Clarke.

*Members:* Mrs Sue Deane, Mr Tim Jones, Mr Michael Nailard, Mr Ray Wicks, Mrs Shelagh Wadman. Mr Guy Hudson  
*Parish Council representative:* Mr John Loman

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*Printed by:* The Danewood Press