The quarterly newsletter for Parish and Town Councils focusing on MSDC's current work and key issues

District Plan

Mid Sussex District Council is proposing to increase the number of homes to be delivered by the District Plan.

Over the summer the Council consulted on the District Plan and received constructive feedback as part of that process. After careful consideration the Council is proposing to make amendments to the Plan to ensure it meets the needs of Mid Sussex residents and businesses, while protecting the unique character and diversity of the towns and villages.

Since the General Election in May there has been a clear drive from Central Government to increase the number of homes built in the UK, led by the Prime Minister's commitment to deliver one million new homes by 2020. This national context is important because it will directly affect the Independent Examination of the Mid Sussex District Plan by the Planning Inspector.

Over the past few months, Mid Sussex District Council has carefully followed the outcomes of Local Plan Examinations in other areas, particularly locally. The methodology used for establishing housing need has been scrutinised closely by Inspectors and strong emphasis has been placed on the requirement to support neighbouring authorities with any unmet housing need. This policy has been strongly enforced at other local Examinations.

As a result of all these requirements the Council is proposing to increase the number of homes provided by the plan to 800 per year. To accommodate the increased housing numbers, the Council is proposing to add a new strategic development site for 600 dwellings at Hardriding Farm, Pease Pottage to the District Plan. A Housing Density Policy will also be introduced to make best use of the land currently allocated for housing and reduce the need to use further Greenfield sites. The Council will continue to look to Neighbourhood Plans to provide local policies and allocations and there will be no necessity for the current generation of neighbourhood plans to increase their housing numbers.

A public consultation is running from 19 November until 31 December to give local people the chance to comment on the changes. The District Plan will then be submitted for Examination in early 2016.

For further information contact Claire Tester on claire.tester@midsussex.gov.uk or 01444 473222. Full details and supporting documentation can be found at www.midsussex.gov.uk/districtplan

Neighbourhood Planning update

Neighbourhood Planning in Mid Sussex is picking up pace with a number of plans now having reached submission and examination stages. The latest examination reports to be published are:

Twineham http://www.midsussex.gov.uk/media/Twineham_NP_Examiners_Report_Final.pdf and Turners Hill http://www.midsussex.gov.uk/media/Turners_Hill_NP_Examiners_Report_Oct_2015.pdf . Congratulations to both groups on the successful examinations, your hard work and effort are to be commended. It is hoped Referendums will be able to be held in late January 2016.

Bolney, Ashurst Wood and Albourne have formally submitted their plans and the Regulation 16 Consultation is now live for Bolney which can be accessed from our website here http://www.midsussex.gov.uk/planning/10109.htm deadline for responses is the 10th December 2015 at midnight. Ashurst Wood and Albourne are to begin shortly so please continue to monitor our website and watch out for an LDF Alert.

On 10th December Mid Sussex will be holding two Referendums on neighbourhood plans, Crawley Down and Burgess Hill – the largest Referendum area to date. There have now been over 100 Referendums held around England.

You may also be aware that the Government recently laid before parliament a Housing and Planning Bill. The second reading took place on Monday 2nd November- there are potential implications for neighbourhood plan groups in the future. A further update will be provided once it is confirmed what the implications are however it seems to be about trying to speed up the process.

Further support with Neighbourhood Planning related matters is available from the District Council. For further information please contact Mark Bristow Mark.Bristow@midsussex.gov.uk or 01444 477391.

Mid Sussex Wellbeing

Dementia Friends
The Mid Sussex Wellbeing team is offering free training to help more people become Dementia Friends. Having a basic understanding of what dementia is and some of the small things you can do to help those affected by dementia to live well can make a huge difference.

A Dementia Friend is someone who has attended a one hour information session and has committed to an action that will make the lives of people living with dementia a little bit better. Anyone of any age can be a Dementia Friend and every action counts - from helping someone to find the right bus to spreading the word about dementia on social media.
If you would like to find out more about Dementia Friends please visit dementiafriends.org.uk or if you have any questions about running an information session, please call 01444 477048 or email kamella.clough@midsussex.gov.uk

Weight Management sessions with young people
New sessions to help young people follow healthy lifestyles will be available in January. The ‘Alive n kicking’ workshops are free and are aimed at young people aged 5 – 19 years.

The first session takes place on Wed 13th Jan at the Dolphin Leisure Centre in Haywards Heath. You can get more info by calling 0300 123 0892 or emailing westsussex@ank.uk.com

Diabetes sessions
The Wellbeing Team has worked with local GPs to develop a programme for people who are at risk of developing diabetes. They will be running regular half-day courses at GP surgeries where people will be able to talk about what it means to be pre-diabetic and to understand what they can

do to reduce the risk of developing diabetes. After the course participants will be offered support through the Wellbeing Team to take the first steps towards a healthier lifestyle.

East Grinstead (Judges Close), Tue 12 Jan, 9.30am-12.30pm
Burgess Hill (Brow), Thu 21 Jan, 6-9pm
Burgess Hill (Park View), Tue 2 Feb, 9.30am – 12.30pm
Haywards Heath (Dolphins), Wed 2 March, 9.30am – 2.30pm
Burgess Hill (Brow), Thu 17 March, 6 – 9pm

People who have been diagnosed as pre-diabetic or are at risk of developing diabetes can find out more by contacting the Wellbeing team on 01444 477191 or email wellbeing@midsussex.gov.uk

Food Safety Courses

All food handlers are required by law to have received an appropriate form of training in food safety. Mid Sussex District Council provides food hygiene training for the Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering, designed for anyone working in a business where food is prepared, cooked or handled. The level 2 award is aimed at food handlers who do not have management responsibility for the food operation and the vast majority of food handlers fall into this category.

The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) is a professional, awarding and campaigning body at the forefront of environmental and public health and safety. The courses are accredited with the CIEH and run by trained Food Safety Officer, Sue Swindley, supported by Val Taplin who is responsible for the booking and administration of the courses.

The cost of the course is £70 per person and consists of a one day programme requiring 6 hours study and ending with a multiple choice examination.

Future courses are taking place on:

- Wednesday 27th January 2016
- Wednesday 23rd March 2016

For more information call 01444 477292 or email val.taplin@midsussex.gov.uk

Smoke and Carbon Monoxide alarm regulations

If you are a landlord, from 1st October 2015 you are required by law to:

- Install at least one smoke alarm on every storey of your rented property.
- Install a carbon monoxide alarm in any room containing a solid fuel burning appliance (i.e. open fires, wood burning stoves).
- Test each alarm at the start of each new tenancy to ensure that the alarms are in working order.

If the Council has reasonable grounds to believe that a landlord is not complying with the regulations then a legal notice will be issued. Failure to comply with the notice may result in a fixed penalty of up to £5,000.

For a limited period free alarms may be applied for online via the Alarms4Life scheme run by West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service: just visit www.westsussex.gov.uk/fire-emergencies-and-

crime/west-sussex-fire-rescue-service/home-safety-advice/alarms-for-private-landlords-properties/#overview_tab

For further advice/info contact Housing StandardsTeam on 01444 477292.

The Annual Canvass response

Each year we carry out an annual canvass of all properties in the District. The recent registration process was returned by 96.2% of respondents. This is very high response rate so thank you for your support in getting the message out.

Notification of casual vacancies

Please remember that when you have a casual vacancy in the office of a Parish or Town Councillor you need to inform the Electoral Services team at MSDC, whether or not you will need a notice to be prepared.
You can speak to any member of the team on 01444 477222 or email elections@midsussex.gov.uk

Burgess Hill consultation

Detailed plans for the revitalisation of Burgess Hill town centre have been revealed in a formal planning application submitted to Mid Sussex District Council.

The £65 million investment proposal by NewRiver Retail features a 10 screen Cineworld Cinema, a 63 bed Travelodge hotel, 142 residential units, a purpose-built modern library, 283 additional car parking spaces and an extra 70,000 square feet of retail space.

NewRiver's plans show a modern design, with glass fronted retail units at ground level and town centre apartments above. A pedestrianised walkway will continue to link Church Walk and Civic Way but the retail units either side will be enlarged to attract big name retailers to the town. The Heights commercial building will be demolished to make way for the 93,000 square foot Cineworld cinema and new shops will face out on to Civic Way. A 7,700 sq ft library will also feature and provide a new active frontage at street level along Civic Way.

The Burgess Hill Town Centre revitalisation plans can be viewed online at www.midsussex.gov.uk using the planning reference DM/15/3858.
The formal consultation phase runs up until 20th of November but MSDC will continue to accept comments up until a decision is made, which is expected to be in early 2016.

Heat for Health

If you know of people who are finding it difficult to keep their homes warm because of high energy bills and not enough money coming in, please read on. There are a number of organisations and sources of support available to help reduce the cost of energy expenditure and improve the

comfort of homes. For further information on current schemes that are available check out the energy efficiency pages on www.midsussex.gov.uk

Residents may be able to get some support through a local partnership project called **Heat for Health**. The project is a partnership between Mid Sussex Older People's Council, Mid Sussex District Council and West Sussex Children and Families Centre. The project is aimed at households facing fuel poverty and containing someone either over 65 or under 5. Measures such as boiler replacements, insulation or secondary glazing may be available to eligible households.

Please call 01444 477191, email heat@midsussex.gov.uk or check the energy pages on www.midsussex.gov.uk for further information.

Consultation

Current and past consultations can be found at www.midsussex.gov.uk/consultation

Press releases

Here is a list of press releases from the past two months www.midsussex.gov.uk/pressreleases

November

- East Grinstead man convicted of assault on CEO
- Burgess Hill and Crawley Down set to decide on Neighbourhood Plans
- Crawley men required to pay £50,000 for running illegal airport car park
- Stay warm, stay well and save money – 'Heat for Health' energy events this month
- Awarding good design in Mid Sussex
- Park all weekend for £1 this Christmas

October

- Last chance to respond to 2015 electoral canvass
- Secure your place now for Open4Business 2015
- Celebrate cultural diversity with Local Global 2015
- New playground equipment for families to enjoy
- Burgess Hill Town Centre plans revealed
- Free NHS health checks for men this Movember
- Free posters let trick or treaters know when to call
- Boltro Road Car Park opened to the public
- Open4Business helps build a stronger economy
- Council responds to District Plan Consultation

Feedback

So we can ensure that we are providing you with information you require, please let us have any comments regarding this newsletter. Please email comms@midsussex.gov.uk