



# Worth Parish Council

## The Secretary of State is holding a Planning Inquiry

The Crawley Down Neighbourhood Plan was adopted by Mid Sussex District Council in January 2016 after a local referendum in which 96% of residents voted "YES" to the question:

*"Do you want Mid Sussex District Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Crawley Down to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?"*

Since adopting the Plan, Mid Sussex has approved several applications for new housing on two sites in Crawley Down - Land West of Turners Hill Rd (adjacent to the Pheasantry) and Land South of Hazel Close (adjacent to the Burleigh Woods development). Permission was granted despite the objections of Worth Parish Council, which maintains that the proposed developments are contrary to the policies in the Crawley Down Neighbourhood Plan.

Worth Parish Council believes that the wishes, objectives and vision of a local community, as expressed through a democratically agreed Neighbourhood Plan, should be respected. Unlike all other bodies in the formal planning process, parish councils have no right of appeal in a decision, so Worth Parish Council have asked the Secretary of State to review the District Council's decisions on the grounds of 'Public Interest'.

Exceptionally, the Secretary of State has agreed that an Inquiry should be held. This is a legal process chaired by a Planning Inspector who considers evidence submitted by all parties. At the end of the Inquiry, the Inspector makes a recommendation to the Secretary of State, who makes the final decision on whether the proposed development is permitted or not.

In support of the Inquiry, Worth Parish Council has employed a full legal team and Councillors have prepared evidence statements on local housing needs and the pressures on infrastructure, such as school places, the health centre, drainage and traffic.

Mid Sussex has refused to provide any support, legal or financial, so the Parish Council will meet the costs of the Inquiry from its reserves.

The Inquiry will take place at the Mid Sussex District Council offices in Oaklands Road, Haywards Heath commencing at 10.00am on **Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017**. It will run each day until Friday, 10th February, with the exception of Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February.

The Inquiry is open to the public, and the evidence that will be discussed is available through the Mid Sussex online planning register (reference AP/16/0038) or from the Parish Council Offices.

There is still time for individuals or local groups to write to the Inspector and make him aware of your views and experiences.

**Worth Parish Council is not arguing for no development; it is arguing that it is time to put local needs first.**

**PLEASE SHOW YOUR SUPPORT BY ATTENDING THE INQUIRY WHENEVER YOU ARE ABLE.**

For further information, please contact the Clerk on 01342 713407, or at [clerk@worthparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@worthparishcouncil.co.uk)