

## EAST GRINSTEAD TOWN COUNCIL

To All Members, East Grinstead Town Council  
(Other circulation for information only)

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18 February 2008

Dear Sir/Madam,

Your attendance is requested at a **PUBLIC MEETING** to be held in the Meridian Hall, East Court, East Grinstead, on **THURSDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 2008** at **8 p.m.** to transact the following business.

Yours faithfully,

C J ROLLEY,

Town Clerk.

### **A G E N D A**

To discuss issues relating to the Draft Core Strategy for Mid Sussex produced by Mid Sussex District Council, which is currently out for public consultation and on which full information can be viewed on [www.midsussex.gov.uk/corestrategy](http://www.midsussex.gov.uk/corestrategy)

Note - The Town Council's initial policy view on the Core Strategy, determined at a meeting on 4 February 2008, is:

1. The Town Council believes the Core Strategy should reflect the principles that won wide East Grinstead community support in the Town Council's Community Review on the Area Action Plan and in the November 1 2005 and May 30 2006 Town Meeting Resolutions.

2. It is clear that the draft Core Strategy fails to do this. It also fails to provide

- \* A compelling strategic vision for the Town.
- \* Credible and robust evidence base to underpin its key thrusts
- \* Identification and comprehensive discussion of all options

3. The Town Council is particularly surprised and disappointed at the draft's focus on a single contingency of 1500 houses plus partial relief road should there be a failure to deliver the Area Action Plan's proposed 2,500 house strategic development with full relief road. The Council considers this flies in the face of work carried out by consultants retained by Mid Sussex District Council and West Sussex County

Council, including Peter Brett Associates, to work on this option (DS10). The Council agrees with the Leader of the District that this is the 'worst of all worlds' option.

4. The saved policy LOC1 without appendices makes it clear that a large-scale mixed-use development is required to the west and south west of East Grinstead associated primarily with growth in the Crawley/Gatwick area. Given that the Core Strategy is supposed to represent the most appropriate policies, and consider alternatives founded on a credible and robust evidence base, options that deliver the LOC 1 objective (and which are not contiguous with East Grinstead's current boundaries) should have been presented and more rigorously tested. Thus Crabett Park should be presented as an option in the Core Strategy and not as a fall back position to the East Grinstead proposed allocation, an option to be judged on its own merits.

5. Accordingly the Town Council opposes the Core Strategy as failing to meet the needs of East Grinstead and its current and future residents and commits itself to working for a better way forward for the final version of the Core Strategy.

6. The Town Council restates the requirements it seeks from the Core Strategy, as an open and interactive process to produce options that are dictated explicitly by East Grinstead's own needs, character and identity. In this regard there is a need to produce an evidence-based schedule of fully funded infrastructure requirements that **must** be provided prior to any future housing growth.

7. The Town Council remains committed to working constructively with Mid Sussex District Council to deliver a better way forward that meets the needs of the Town and Mid Sussex as a whole. The Town Council tables the following proposals as fundamental to providing a better way both in the construction and in the delivery of the Core Strategy.

#### 8. The Forward Process

8.1 The Town Council calls for the Core Strategy's forward process to be based on community involvement and evidence-based development planning. The process must culminate in the production of a Masterplan for East Grinstead to provide the heart of the Core Strategy's framework for East Grinstead. The Town Council remains committed to playing its part in this process working in conjunction with its community partners wherever possible.

8.2 The Town Council believes further urgent work is necessary now to provide the evidence base currently lacking in the draft Core Strategy, particularly on employment data and aspirations, infrastructure provision and traffic congestion, specifically linked to the real needs of East Grinstead.

8.3 The Town Council will seek to create a Three Tiers Working Group to ensure regular debate and joint decision-making on all issues relating to the Town's development and Core Strategy generally, such body being based on the successful model already established in Burgess Hill.

8.4 The Council endorses the concept of a Town Fund to control and manage Section 106 monies, including a significant role for the Town Council in the direction of such monies.