



# EAST GRINSTEAD TOWN COUNCIL

Council Offices, East Court, College Lane, East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 3LT

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Town Clerk: Mrs J W Holden IRRV (Hons) CMgr MCMI



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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Your Ref:

My Ref:

When calling please ask for: Mrs Holden

Cllr Gary Marsh  
Mid Sussex District Council

By email

5<sup>th</sup> April 2012

Dear Cllr Marsh

## **Input to District Plan on housing numbers and sites**

We refer to your letter dated 23 January and our recent meeting concerning the above. We should like to submit the following in response to your request for an indicative housing number for the purposes of the district plan.

In providing this letter of intent at this point, in advance of our neighbourhood plan and its consultation on housing sites and numbers, we should like to it make clear that we do not consider this binding on either party and provided only in the spirit of good faith and as a sign of our continued cooperation to work with the district council on its emerging plan.

As you are aware, West Sussex County Council commissioned, from transport consultants Atkins, a further (stage 3) report. This follows stages 1&2 which have sought to suggest the capacity and development enablement of the town. From this emerging report and its conclusions the Council resolved on April 2 to agree that a ceiling of 765 units (subject to junctions improvements and limited to the "do minimum scenario) should be suggested and that an additional 190 units might be assumed (only if the deliverability and affordability issues associated with the "do something scenario can be overcome.)

The full resolution from the committee is shown:

- (i) That the Town Clerk write to Mid Sussex District Council in response to the 31st March 2012 deadline to confirm the agreed ceiling of growth as 765 homes that being taken from (existing commitments and allocated sites);
- (ii) To confirm that to proceed with the aforementioned existing commitments that junction improvements a "do minimum"

scenario must be implemented to ensure that the impact on the A22 junctions is acceptable;

- (iii) To include in the response that it is not clear that the further transport improvements outlined in the emerging analysis would permit ANY future increase capacity even up to an additional 190 homes. This scenario would require significant up-front investment and planning, and may therefore be undeliverable in the short term. It may also generate traffic and wider network implications;

In recognising the draft recommendations and conclusions of Atkins, and the emerging statement from West Sussex County Council, we would seek assurances from Mid Sussex as to its support for this position and the desire to commence dialogue on the mechanisms to deliver the upfront infrastructure investment outlined as needed to support both current commitments and any future growth. We should also like early consideration, and support to proposals for a transport tariff to be levied to all applications in the town to ensure the ongoing necessary funding.

This response makes no reference at this time to the Habitats Directive and the constraints effecting East Grinstead due to the proximity of the Ashdown Forest. We expect to raise these issues once more of the affect of these constraints on East Grinstead become known.

In the meantime I trust that this letter is of use to the District Council and thank you for extending the deadline to allow the Councils democratic process to consider the reply that has been tendered.

Yours sincerely



Julie Holden  
Town Clerk