

**Contact:**

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**Your Ref:**

**Our Ref:** AMN/LM

**Date:**

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The Clerk  
Slaugham Parish Council  
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BY EMAIL

Dear Sir,

**Mid Sussex District Council response to Slaugham Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14 consultation**

Mid Sussex District Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Slaugham pre-submission Neighbourhood Plan (November 2017) ('the Neighbourhood Plan'). Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) commends the work which has gone into the preparation of the Plan thus far, and recognises the benefit that having a made Neighbourhood Plan will bring to the Parish.

**Housing**

Paragraph 6.12 of the Neighbourhood Plan identifies that the existing supply of completions and commitments in Slaugham parish will meet the housing need identified by the Parish's own Housing Needs Consideration report. However, it is noted that the Parish Council have resolved to make housing allocation provision for further, modest housing growth in the parish over the plan period.

This approach, which complies with national planning policy guidance, is welcomed and supported by MSDC. Policy DP6 of the emerging MSDC District Plan, which sets out guidance on the minimum number of housing units which should be delivered in each Parish, notes that there is no specific requirement for new dwellings in Slaugham, because the strategic site at Pease Pottage, which lies within Slaugham Parish, will deliver approximately 600 new homes.

The intention to provide modest housing growth is welcomed for two reasons:

- The District Plan's housing numbers are minima, and therefore exceeding those is regarded as positive planning; and
- the intention of the Parish to allocate a total of 65 units at St Martins Close, Handcross will make a valuable contribution to meeting local housing need, in a relatively sustainable location.

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However, MSDC note that the proposed sites at St Martin's Close, Handcross do lie within the High Weald AONB and therefore we encourage the Parish Council to work with any developer and the High Weald Management Board to ensure that schemes are developed which conserve the landscape and scenic beauty of the AONB.

### **Built Up Area Boundaries**

Policy 4 of the Neighbourhood Plan notes that development proposals outside the built up area boundaries of the Parish will not be supported, unless it is necessary for agriculture, or for some other use which has to be located in the countryside.

MSDC will be reviewing parish built up area boundaries as part of our work on the preparation of the Site Allocations Plan. The built up area boundary of Handcross will be amended to include the Neighbourhood Plan allocations at St Martin's Close east and west, to ensure that there is no conflict between Policies 4 and 11 of the Neighbourhood Plan.

### **Employment**

Policy 14 of the Plan seeks to ensure that the loss of any land currently in business or employment use is resisted, unless certain criteria apply. MSDC supports this approach, which builds on the District Plan Policy DP2 – Sustainable Economic Development – which also seeks to protect allocated and existing employment land and premises.

### **Sustainability Appraisal**

We do not have any comments on the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) which supports the Plan. Officers have discussed the draft SA with the Parish's consultants previously, and our concerns have been addressed in the Submission version of the document.

### **Summary**

The District Council, in its opinion, is satisfied that all the necessary legal requirements have been met in the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan represents a forward thinking, positive Plan for Slaugham Parish.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Andrew MacNaughton  
Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning