

Slaugham Neighbourhood Plan: December 2017

Slaugham Parish Council is aware of a Statement which has been distributed to households, by the Handcross Action Group. This Statement has been circulated in response to the current consultation on the Regulation 14 (Pre-submission) Slaugham Neighbourhood Plan (SNP).

The Statement sets out objections, to the emerging SNP, and in particular the houses to be built on land at St.Martins Close, Handcross.

In response to this, Slaugham Parish Council wish to draw residents attention to the following:

- There is new emerging national guidance on how to calculate housing need in neighbourhood planning. This could result in a requirement for Neighbourhood Plans to allocate more housing than has occurred historically.
- The District Plan is still emerging, and is subject to change. The SNP has carefully considered the Draft Plan, and is seeking to future proof for potential changes over the next 14 years;
- The District Plan is seeking to set out minimum housing numbers. Additional housing provided above this will strengthen the Parish's position against potential housing pressure;
- Some Neighbourhood Plans in Mid Sussex that have already been "made" are now being encouraged to be reviewed and to plan for more housing;
- A Neighbourhood Plan that allocates land for housing is better placed to resist future speculative housing application if the District Council cannot maintain a "5 year housing land supply";
- The SNP includes a "reserve" housing site. This would only be released if the Parish are required to provide more housing;
- The SNP must be prepared "positively", and this can best be achieved by planning for some new houses;

For these reasons, the Parish Council believe the Regulation 14 (Pre-submission) Slaugham Neighbourhood Plan has been carefully and robustly prepared.

We urge residents to review the Slaugham Neighbourhood Plan and let us have your comments on or before 08 January 2018.