

Parish Council Actions Following Notification of Additional Sites for Testing

1. Convened an Extraordinary Meeting to Inform the Community

Once Mid Sussex District Council's Post-Hearings Update (15 May 2026) confirmed that four sites in Slaugham Parish were to undergo further in-combination testing, the Parish Council called an **Extraordinary Meeting on 26 May 2026**. The stated purpose was:

“to advise the community of the current position and to gather information and feedback from local residents on these allocations.”

This ensured residents were briefed early, ahead of any formal consultation.

2. Presented the Inspector's Requirements and the District-Level Context

The Council summarised the Inspector's direction that MSDC must test additional sites to meet increased housing requirements, including unmet need from Crawley and Brighton. The minutes record:

“The Planning Inspector... has required Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) to undertake further in-combination testing of four additional sites within Slaugham Parish.”

Maps and orientation of the sites were shown, and links to MSDC's examination documents were provided.

3. Explained the Status of the Sites and the Testing Process

The Council made clear that:

- The sites were **not allocations**
- They had **no planning permission**
- They were **subject to further technical in-combination testing**
- MSDC had **not published the methodology** for the testing

This was emphasised repeatedly to prevent misunderstanding:

“These sites are not confirmed allocations... and remain subject to further technical testing.”

4. Gathered Resident Feedback and Evidence

The Extraordinary Meeting was used to collect the initial views of the community on:

- Scale and cumulative impact of development
- Infrastructure constraints
- Environmental and wildlife concerns

- Traffic and access issues
- Village identity and quality of life

The minutes confirm:

“The Open Forum formed the core of the Extraordinary Meeting... Below are a summary of the comments.”

This feedback will inform the Council’s position ahead of the statutory consultation.

5. Clarified the Role of the Planning Inspector and National Policy

Residents questioned fairness and process; the Council responded by explaining:

- The Inspector applies national policy
- The uplift is driven by central government
- MSDC must comply with the Inspector’s direction

This helped frame expectations and reduce misconceptions and engage residents in the process.

6. Highlighted Infrastructure and Environmental Issues for Future Testing

The Council acknowledged concerns and confirmed these would be raised formally during consultation and assessed through MSDC’s technical work.

7. Set Out Next Steps and Future Engagement

The Council committed to:

- Further public meetings and open days
- Guidance for residents on how to submit representations
- Considering whether to appoint a planning consultant
- Sharing updates as MSDC releases more information

The minutes state:

“The Parish Council will hold further public meetings ahead of the formal six-week consultation will take place later in the year.” and will hold further surgeries where required

8. Reiterated MSDC’s Warning Not to Submit Representations Early

Residents were advised **not** to write to MSDC until the formal consultation:

“Inclusion on this list... does not mean that any site will be taken forward... Residents are advised not to write to Mid Sussex District Council ahead of the formal consultation.”

Summary - When notified of the additional sites being tested, the Parish Council immediately convened an Extraordinary Meeting, briefed residents on the Inspector’s requirements, explained the testing process, presented the four sites, gathered extensive community feedback, clarified national policy context, highlighted infrastructure and environmental issues, and set out a structured plan for ongoing engagement and preparation for the formal consultation.