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## All change at Horsham!

**Horsham voted for change and the District Council is now under Liberal Democrat control. 28 of the 48 councillors are new. What does this mean for the HDC Local Plan, and for the West of Ifield?**

We don't yet know, but we're sure that key areas of the Plan are being reviewed, and that we have an opportunity to convince a new group of councillors that the West of Ifield is not a viable or sustainable option. And that Horsham's housing targets overall are not viable, sustainable or necessary.

So we've written to all HDC councillors and planners setting out SWOI's arguments and we're asking EVERYONE to do the same over the next few weeks. Even if you've written recently, please do so again. And if you've never written, now's the time to start.

A couple of new points you might want to think about:

- 1. The current draft Plan fails all of these Lib Dem election manifesto priorities:**
  - Building the right homes in the right places,
  - Putting residents first, and
  - Protecting our countryside and green spaces.
- 2. The risk of serious water shortage in the south-east is real and worsening rapidly due to population growth and climate change. What is HDC doing to reduce residents' water risk? How can excessive house-building be justified or sustainable?**
- 3. We hear the argument that the current draft is well-advanced and that further delay risks speculative applications from developers. But the risks of continuing with the current draft and not challenging the housing targets are huge. HDC can and must take the time to argue for much lower targets.**

**The amount of development in Horsham District is out of control and unsustainable. Horsham cannot continue building houses at the rate of 1,000+ a year.**

- 4. One of the problems previously was the concentration of power in the south of the district, and a preference for putting development in the north. This was explained as a policy of 'urban add-ons' but the justification is very weak – to quote John Milne – Lib Dem Deputy Leader – from the SWOI film:**

**'Horsham has followed a policy of endless urban add-ons. The trouble with that is you're never going to get the infrastructure that's needed for the development because you'll always be forced to piggy-back off existing schools, existing clinics and existing roads. If you can see something's not been working for years why keep doing it?'**

For more **arguments and evidence** – watch the SWOI film: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...> and see the SWOI website: <https://www.savewestofifield.co.uk>

Find HDC email **addresses** here: <https://www.savewestofifield.co.uk/take-action>

## Did you know ...?

### 1. Horsham's population growth is the fastest in Sussex and Surrey

The ONS 2021 census shows that Horsham's population grew faster than any other local authority (LA) in Sussex or Surrey between 2011 and 2021, and **at 11.8% was almost double the rate for England and Wales overall of 6.3%. Almost all driven by house-building and internal migration, ie not local need.**

Horsham's growth is also higher than all LAs in Kent with the exception of Dartford, Maidstone and Ashford.

Looking forwards, the government's housebuilding targets for Horsham will ratchet this up further to around 15% population growth over the 10 years to 2031.

SWOI wants HDC's Local Plan to explain:

How can population growth of nearly 50% over 30 years be sustainable?

How does this rate of growth fit with HDC's 30-year vision?

## 2. Huge water shortfalls in future from population growth and climate change

The south-east is suffering serious water stress. Water Resources South East (WRSE) estimates massive supply shortfalls in the future 'driven by the need to address climate change and population growth'. And huge need for investment.

WRSE is an alliance of the 6 water companies in the south-east and together they supply 6 billion litres of water a day. In their 2022 Draft Regional Plan – <https://www.wrse.org.uk/> - they forecast potential shortfalls of 0.8 billion litres per day by 2035, rising to 2.7 billion a day by 2075. ie around 40% of today's supply. These shortfalls are driven by a combination of:

- Lower supply due to climate change, and environmental improvements (extracting less water), and
- **Higher demand due to population growth** and measures needed to increase resilience to drought.

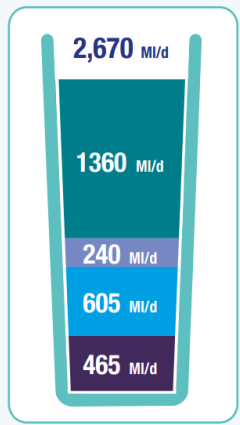
WRSE's Plan puts numbers against these challenges – but note that the Plan also gives a higher figure due to the population growth – of 845Ml/d – resulting from government housing targets. The 605Ml/d below is based on housing need figures from local authorities rather than from government targets.

**If we do nothing, we could face a shortfall of nearly 2.7 billion litres of water per day by 2075.**

**More water is needed to:**

- Improve the environment by leaving more water in rivers, streams and underground sources
- Address the impact of climate change
- Supply a growing population
- Make our water supplies more resilient to droughts

The future is uncertain, so our regional plan can adapt, depending on what might happen.



The Plan sets out the actions needed in the short and long term – repairing leaks, cutting water use, building new water sources and transferring supplies from the River Severn via the Thames(!). All of this will cost an estimated £15 billion over the next 50 years – but sources of funding are not discussed in the Plan – **presumably we the customers will bear the brunt?** And all existing households will be required to cut current use from 150 litres per person per day on average to 100 or less. This is a huge exercise which, along with fixing leaks and delivering infrastructure will take decades to deliver.

**How can HDC, government and water companies support accelerating population growth in the south-east?**

**Water deficits must be a strong argument against Horsham's housing target of 1,000+ a year?**

## Dates for your Diary

We were sad to postpone the **Plough to Plough Challenge** scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> June but the heat, humidity and chance of thunderstorms were all too great. We're rescheduling – watch this space for a new date.



### July

5<sup>th</sup> – Fund-raising **Quiz**, 8pm at The Plough Rusper. Call 01293 871215 to book table – and dinner beforehand.

### August

27<sup>th</sup> – **Ifest**. Save West of Ifield will have various stalls at Ifield Cricket Club's Ifest, on Ifield Green. Live music, food, bar and games.

### September

2<sup>nd</sup> – SWOI will have a stall at the **CPRE Country Fair** at Knepp – more details to follow.

### November

11<sup>th</sup> – **Race Night!** A joint fund-raising event with Ifield Cricket Club in the clubhouse on Ifield Village Green. Doors open 7.30. First race 8pm. All bets £1, plus buy as many horses as you like for £5 each to maximise winnings. Please contact [ifieldcc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ifieldcc@hotmail.co.uk) for details.

**The June event was packed and a LOT of fun!! And SWOI and ICC jointly raised nearly £500.**

