



WORTH Parish Council

Clerk to the Council **Keith L. Wall**

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Claire Tester
Head of Economic Promotion and Planning
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex
RH16 1SS

Dear Claire,

Worth Parish, Plan Housing numbers

Developers have identified sites in Worth Parish to accommodate up to 500 units. Of these, the vast majority are proposed for a site north of the A264, west of the current village of Copthorne. This site was identified as site "o" in the 2007 Core Strategy pre-submission document, where it was included with other locations described as not performing well in the Sustainability Appraisal as "development of this land would result in the complete coalescence of Copthorne with Crawley."

While the National Planning Policy Framework states that there will be a "presumption in favour of sustainable development", the lack, to date, of a definition of "sustainable" is causing considerable concern, especially for those development proposals which would require significant improvements, if not completely new works, to water, sewerage and electricity supplies, which are already very problematic in the Parish.

For your information, an initial key stakeholder meeting to inform the Copthorne Neighbourhood Plan would seem to indicate that the option which would have the most support would be that which protects the character of the village (in line with the 98% of respondents to the District Plan consultation) and is unlikely to support proposals which would lead to coalescence with any neighbouring settlement.

Kind regards,

Neville Walker
Chairman, Worth Parish Council