



# HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

Miss Linda Baker, Clerk to the Council

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Shelley Eugene  
NHS England Surrey and Sussex Area Team  
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29 April 2015

Dear Ms Eugene

I am the Chair of the Hassocks Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan committee. We are currently developing a plan for future development, the details of which can be found here: <http://hassockspc.net/neighbourhood-plan-2/neighbourhood-plan-3/>

As part of our plan we have assessed that Hassocks needs to consider the development of somewhere between 250-400 new homes over the lifetime of the neighbourhood plan (to 2031). We are working further on potential sites and to finalise the numbers. Although we are mindful that Mid Sussex District Council would like us to consider a number of dwellings in the order of 600.

This time frame ('to 2031') is highly misleading however, since there are now two active planning applications for in total 237 homes and a further two applications in the offing for an additional 250. In addition there are existing sites in Hassocks already considered suitable by Mid Sussex District Council for a further 150 homes. In total therefore, developers are considering approximately 637 new homes in Hassocks, the majority of which will be delivered in the next 5 years and not over the 20 years of the full plan. Even if some of these applications are refused, as our own projection has an upper limit of 400 new homes, we are planning for at least 400 new homes in the next 5 years therefore.

This will obviously have profound consequences for primary care in Hassocks as the Mid Sussex Health Care practice which covers Hassocks, Hurstpierpoint and Ditchling has also to cope with the effects of housing development of around 300 homes in Hurstpierpoint over the same period. You will also be aware that even without new home building the demographics of Hassocks are changing rapidly given the rate of inbound young families supplanting the traditional age and population profile. We do not want to be caught off guard.

We would like discuss your strategic plans for primary care in Hassocks taking into account the inevitable substantial increase in homes and patient numbers over the next 5 years. Can you let me know if you would have time to meet so we may understand how you plan to address these needs. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Ian Credland

Chair of Hassocks Neighbourhood Plan Working Group