

27 February 2024

**PRESS RELEASE: Mid Sussex District Plan lacks ambition**

***Revised, greener plan is an improvement but needs to be bolder on affordable housing, while cutting overall targets.***

Countryside campaigners have welcomed some improvements to the Mid Sussex District Plan.

CPRE Sussex says the new plan is greener than its predecessor and includes tougher new home energy standards.

However, the charity is 'disappointed' the plan is not more ambitious and says residents have been unable to contribute to its development in a way that works best for the long-term future of the district.

CPRE Sussex Director Paul Steedman said: "Mid Sussex District Council has been too timid in challenging the Government's approach to setting housing targets. This plan seeks to deliver far more houses than the council itself believes is needed, lining up greenfield sites for development that are neither needed nor sustainable.

"At the same time, within a smaller overall housing target, the plan needs to be much bolder on the number of affordable homes it requires from developers."

CPRE Sussex criticised the lack of focus on brownfield sites, and the climate impacts of car-dependent development.

The charity also called for the protection for the 'rural jewel' of the Low Weald.

Mr Steedman added: "It is wishful thinking on the council's part to believe it can deliver a self-sustaining 20-minute community via separate greenfield sites at Sayers Common. If it is not sustainable do not develop it."

The full CPRE Sussex response to the plan is available via [cpresussex.org.uk/news/mid-sussex-district-councils-draft-district-plan-review-lacks-ambition](https://cpresussex.org.uk/news/mid-sussex-district-councils-draft-district-plan-review-lacks-ambition)

-ENDS-

For press inquiries and interview opportunities contact [sheena.campbell@cpresussex.org.uk](mailto:sheena.campbell@cpresussex.org.uk).

**Notes for editors:**

**About CPRE Sussex**

CPRE Sussex is shaping a greener future for Sussex. Our priorities are:

- Beautiful landscapes, rich in nature and greener towns and cities
- Countryside and green spaces which are accessible to all, enriching lives and health



- Sustainable development for thriving communities
- Effective responses to the climate emergency

We engage with decision makers, influencing them and challenging them to protect the Sussex countryside and green spaces. We inform on environmental issues and empower individuals and communities with robust evidence to defend and enhance the green spaces they love. We believe in collaborating with others to ensure a greener future for our county. We research and provide advice on planning issues. Together we can shape a greener future for Sussex.