



The Midhurst Society

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**Email sent to local councillors Steve Morley and Gordon McAra
regarding the proposal to put a residential nursing home
on The Grange Site in Midhurst**

On 27 August we shared a link to a site conducting a poll on options for the development of the derelict site once occupied by the old Grange Centre. Respondents were asked to choose between a care home, for which an offer had been made; or retail development in the future, for which no satisfactory offer had been received. Although the poll hasn't reached its closing date, it would appear that the support for a care home is negligible.

We live in a democracy, whereby we elect representatives to make decisions in our best interests. We cannot make decisions 'in the community'. We are entitled to expect that our elected representatives have taken the trouble to ascertain the wishes of the people before making decisions. Sadly, this is often not the case.

Since the publication of the SDNP Local Plan The Midhurst Society has on many occasions sought the views of its members and Facebook followers. Overwhelmingly and consistently they cite affordable starter homes as top priority. It is disappointing, then, that Chichester DC should want to accept the highest bid for the Grange site, which happens to be for a Care Home. It would appear that they haven't even asked the views of Midhurst Town Council.

The SDNP Local Plan Pre-submission document identified the area adjacent to The Grange Centre [Chapter 7.164 (Page 156) and Chapter 7.168 (Page 157)] as suitable for a medium-sized supermarket. The Midhurst Society spent many hours analysing this document and responding accordingly. If the master plan is ignored without further consultation democracy has been devalued.

We believe that community organisations such as The Midhurst Society have an important role in seeking public views and communicating rationally and responsibly with the appropriate bodies. We urge you to continue to make your views known on sites such as this and/or to your councillor and/or MP."

Harvey Tordoff

30 August 2018