



The Midhurst Society

10 July 2019

Following the Inspector's Report dated 18 June 2019 the SDNPA Local Plan was adopted on 2 July 2019. The Plan includes several items that are of particular interest to Midhurst.

This section calls for housing development on the former Caravan Park at Holmbush. Although access was inadequately dealt with in the Local Plan the Inspector makes no comment on this aspect. He merely wants clarification on the avoidance of flood risk.

If we are to accept another 50 to 70 new housing units here, it would seem an ideal opportunity to strengthen the infrastructure in the southern part of town. An outlying doctor's surgery, perhaps, to be manned at certain times by the Riverbank doctors? No mention of that, either!

The Inspector, in his Report, comments as follows:

SD82 – Holmbush Caravan Park, Midhurst – Strategic Housing Allocation

193. This 5 ha former caravan site, allocated for 50 to 70 new dwellings, is subject to a risk of fluvial and groundwater flooding over parts of the land.

Development criterion 1c specifies that development be located sequentially outside Flood Zones 2 and 3 of relatively high risk but this important stipulation is indirectly expressed, ineffective and unsound as submitted. For criterion 1c and Policy SD82 as a whole to be sound, MM84 is required to state clearly that all housing development must be within Flood Zone 1 of low risk.