



The Midhurst Society

**1 Gilbert Hannam Close, Midhurst GU29 9FY
01730 815238**

**Extract of letter sent to SDNPA
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**Ref: SDNP/19/03606/PRE
Midhurst Brickworks & WSCC Depot
Bepton Road, Midhurst**

We welcome the approach from Metis Homes, seeking advice on their proposal to redevelop the Old Brickwork Site in Midhurst. Without seeing their detailed plans we can only make general comments at this stage, which are as follows:

1. A mix of affordable homes is essential, and rather than rely on national recommendations we urge that local needs are taken into account.
2. We assume that in response to the national and local need to plant more trees every effort will be taken to make this development a green and pleasant area.
3. The Local Plan does not insist on the provision of renewable energy, but since that Plan was drafted many Councils, including Chichester District, have declared a Climate Change Emergency. It is essential that large-scale developments in the National Park include ground or air source heat pumps and/or solar panels.
4. Recent housing developments have failed to provide adequate parking. National averages include data from large cities, where car-ownership is not essential as it is in rural towns. Two-bedroom housing units in Midhurst require two car-parking spaces. Houses with three bedrooms and more, with teenage children of driving age, often have three or four cars. And regard should also be had for visitors, workmen and deliveries. Serious consideration should be given to providing basement garages which would result in more garden space and could reduce the clutter of cars on drives and streets.
5. Each housing unit should have at least one electric car charging point.
6. The Household Waste Recycling Centre currently on this site is a vital and much-used facility. Midhurst's infrastructure has been eroded over recent years (reduced police and ambulance presence etc.) and it is essential that we do not lose the recycling facility. Adequate provision should be made for its retention on this site or at a location very close to the centre of Midhurst in a

way that does not impact adversely on the quiet enjoyment of residents.
Without such provision any re-development proposals should be rejected.

7. Some consideration should be given to job creation with the provision of a small number of units suitable for retail, office or very light industrial use.
8. An adequate barrier between urban gardens and The Common will be necessary to reduce the impact of domestic cats and the spread of non-native garden plants.
9. 72 additional housing units will add to the existing burden of poor infrastructure. Metis Homes should be asked to make a contribution towards the ongoing costs of infrastructure improvements (better public transport, additional shops, medical facilities etc.)

Whilst not part of the considerations for this application, attention to traffic congestion and its impact on air quality must be tackled at some stage. 72 new houses could result in an additional 1,000 car journeys up and down Rumbolds Hill every week.

Harvey Tordoff

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