

Planning Committee
Minutes of a Meeting held on 5th January 2012

Present: Mr Blanch (Chairman), Robert Salisbury, Ken Gregory, Nigel Page, Andy Burton

In Attendance: Mrs Sage (Assistant to the Clerk)

242 Apologies for Absence were received from Mrs King and Mr Mercer

243 Declarations of Interest: Mr Salisbury declared an interest as a member of Mid Sussex District Council Planning Committee

244 Public Question Time: There were no members of the public present

245 Response to the MSDC Consultation Draft District Plan:

A summary of the comments is included below. A full copy of the response can be obtained from the Council's offices at The Queen's Hall.

Overall Impressions on Background and Vision

245.1 In general there was a feeling that terms and expressions used within the draft tended to be loose and vague. There was a lack of use of metrics or clear benchmarks against which to measure success within the document. There was no clear measurable vision of where the District wanted to be in 20 years time.

245.2 Reference should be made in the introduction to the document, to the MSDC constitution and the requirement to benchmark parish and town councils against other similar councils in the area.

245.3 There was also a general comment that more mention, particularly within the specific policy areas, should be made to the link with individual town and parish council Neighbourhood Plans.

245.4 More emphasis overall was needed to retain green open spaces which do not fall within the AONB or the South Downs National Park, as well as green corridors and green belts to prevent urban coalescence.

245.5 More emphasis was needed to manage developers, in such a way that inappropriate and unnecessary development are not forced on the District. Robust policy to defend policies!

245.6 More emphasis was needed to prevent over-development in areas which have become a 'victim of their own success'. There was no real analysis as to why growth and expansion was right for the Mid Sussex – if the policy is more clearly defined within the Sustainable Communities document this should be made clear.

Signed _____