

COUNCIL

24 April 2024

Questions from the Public

Question 1

We understand that housing targets have to be met and that the Horsham District Local Plan has included housing proposals that do not necessarily mirror those of the neighbourhood plans. Of particular note are the proposed developments ST01 and ST02 in Storrington and the application for a further 247 houses on the site of the mushroom farm in Thakeham.

Horsham District Council will be aware that Storrington acts as a “hub” village to the neighbouring Parishes and is in the unique, but unenviable, position of having 6 million cars travelling through the village on an annual basis. Of these 6 million cars an estimated 600,000* of these exceed the speed limit (*from community speedwatch data).

The provision of more housing will contribute to even more traffic which places a further burden on a village that is already collapsing under the weight of traffic volumes.

We assume that Horsham District Council considered not just the provision of additional housing to meet housing targets, but the consequences of that additional housing in terms of the burden on the infrastructure of our village when the proposals were submitted.

So can Horsham District Council please advise what additional infrastructure services they will be providing directly and also advise what discussions/proposals are in place with West Sussex County Council to ensure that highways bring our lamentable road conditions, signage and inappropriate speed limits to a standard that supports the consequence of additional housing.

These proposals may include:

- Road calming measures.

- Pedestrian safety.

- Vehicle Activated Signs.

- Policing of illegal parking.

- Cleanliness, safety and management of footways that are suffering as a result of huge traffic volumes.

Question 2

The residents of Storrington village wants to restore the look and feel and 'sense' of the village, which has become diluted due to a number of issues. Storrington village residents suffer the consequence of over half a million vehicles using the High Street each month. This is recognised to be largely due to the juxtaposition of the location of our village, the geography, the local industry and the road infrastructure, that sees the village as a convenient cut through. Incidentally, data shows that half a million 50,000 (10%) of those vehicles are speeding (source Speedwatch). We have issues with illegal parking which is dangerous.

We need help with funding VAS signs, action to tackle illegal parking, and a general ongoing clean and spruce up to give Storrington more of a village 'feel'. What can HDC do to help our community, which is at breaking point?