

Sent:

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Subject:

AMENDED 'WEST OF IFIELD' PRESS RELEASE

Categories:

Comments Received

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THE IFIELD SOCIETY

'WEST OF IFIELD' PRESS RELEASE

LET DEMOCRACY BREATHE IN IFIELD

“If you accept the
institutional lunacy, then
the policies are rational.”

— [Noam Chomsky](#)

January 15, 2026

Homes England has issued an eviction notice to close Ifield Golf Club before any planning decision has been made on the West of Ifield planning application. This action has been taken before the planning process has concluded and before elected councillors have reached a decision.

Many within the community believe this is democratically wrong.

Democratic planning depends on procedural stability, fairness, and legitimacy. When irreversible action is taken in advance of a decision, pressure is placed on the democratic planning process, public confidence is undermined, and outcomes risk being shaped before evidence has been properly assessed.

This pressure now extends beyond the application itself.

It raises a serious question as to whether [Horsham District Council](#) can realistically present the Planning Inspector with a sound, legally compliant Local Plan while carrying the unresolved burden of Homes England's speculative West of Ifield masterplan.

In effect, the system is being asked to square a circle.

That concern is no longer theoretical. The Planning Inspector has now convened an exploratory procedural meeting with the Council to examine whether the Local Plan examination can even progress. This is an extraordinary step and underscores the scale of the instability now facing the planning process.

Planning decisions must be based on planning policy, public evidence, and local consent — not taken under the shadow of a pre-emptive closure imposed by a government-backed developer funded by the taxpayer.

If the proposal is sound and the evidence strong, it must be asked why the democratic planning process cannot be allowed to run its proper course without pressure or predetermination.

This is not party politics. Nor should it be. [Crawley Borough Council](#) and [Gatwick Airport Limited](#), among

others, have raised serious, evidence-based objections in the public interest. Those objections deserve respect.

[Homes England](#) is a public body, accountable to Parliament and the public. Calls for ministerial intervention to withdraw the application and remove the threat to close Ifield Golf Club are proportionate, responsible, and necessary to restore confidence in the democratic planning system.

This is not radical.

It is not extreme.

It is democracy.

Let democracy breathe in Ifield.

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