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**Sent:**

[REDACTED]

16 January 2026 13:20

[REDACTED]

**Subject:**

[REDACTED]

'LET DEMOCRACY BREATHE WITHIN THE ANCIENT PARISH OF IFIELD'

**Attachments:**

thumbnail - 2026-01-16T115707.015.jpg

**Categories:**

Comments Received

Dear Editor

Homes England has issued an eviction notice to close Ifield Golf Club before any planning decision has been made on its 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 more than 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, trust is lost, 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 quango-cum-master 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. The democratic system demands these objections are fully heard.

**Homes England** is a public body, accountable to Parliament and the public. Calls for ministerial intervention to withdraw the speculative application, remove the threat to close Ifield Golf Club and support a viable 'Ifield Park - Gatwick' alternative, are proportionate, responsible, and necessary to restore confidence and trust in the planning system.

This is not radical.

It is not extreme.

It is democracy.

**Let democracy breathe within the ancient Parish of Ifield.**

**Yours sincerely**

[Redacted signature]

**The Ifield Society**

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# LET DEMOCRACY BREATHE IN I FIELD GOLF CLUB TOLD TO CLOSE— BEFORE A PLANNING DECISION

## WHY THE RUSH?

Homes England has issued notice to close **I FIELD GOLF CLUB** *before* the West of I field planning application has been decided.

Residents say this puts **UNACCEPTABLE PRESSURE** on the democratic planning process.

## THE KEY QUESTION

**IF THE CASE IS STRONG —**  
**WHY NOT LET DEMOCRACY DECIDE FIRST?**

## WHY THIS MATTERS

**POLICY · EVIDENCE · PUBLIC CONSENT**

— NOT ON IRREVERSIBLE ACTIONS TAKEN IN ADVANCE.

## A BETTER WAY IS POSSIBLE

### **I FIELD PARK – GATWICK**

*A democratic, community-led alternative that protects nature, heritage, and public trust.*

**ISSUED BY: THE I FIELD SOCIETY**