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07 January 2026 10:52

Subject:

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IFIELD PARK - GATWICK: THE SEVEN-STEP DEMOCRATIC ALTERNATIVE TO HOMES ENGLAND'S MASTERPLAN

Attachments:

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Categories:

Comments Received

IFIELD PARK - GATWICK: THE SEVEN-STEP DEMOCRATIC ALTERNATIVE TO HOMES ENGLAND'S MASTERPLAN

Dear Editor

IFIELD PARK - GATWICK: THE SEVEN-STEP DEMOCRATIC ALTERNATIVE TO HOMES ENGLAND'S MASTERPLAN

1. Halt the Premature Masterplan

The starting point is trust.

[Homes England](#)'s speculative masterplan must be refused or withdrawn as premature, unsound, and lacking democratic legitimacy.

This creates the necessary planning space for a lawful alternative to emerge.

2. Establish a Joint Democratic Planning Forum

[Crawley Borough Council](#), [Horsham District Council](#), and [West Sussex County Council](#) should formally convene a Joint Area Planning Forum, with parish and community representation built in from the outset.

This restores procedural legitimacy.

3. Secure Interim Protection for the Land

Pending long-term designation, the land should be safeguarded through: continued lawful recreational use (golf, walking, access), recognition as strategic open land / green infrastructure, and interim ecological protection for Ifield Brook, the Mole corridor, and floodplain meadows.

This prevents planning by attrition.

4. Designate Ifield Park – Gatwick as a Local Nature Reserve

Using Natural England guidance, councils should move to designate a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) encompassing: Ifield Golf Course land, Ifield Brook Meadows, links to the River Mole corridor, and the wider parish landscape setting.

This embeds nature recovery, flood resilience, and public access in law.

5. Create a Heritage & Ecology Centre

Within the Park, establish a modest Heritage & Ecology Centre celebrating: the ancient parish of Ifield, water ecology and chalk-stream systems, landscape history and community stewardship, education, volunteering, and research.

This anchors culture, learning, and identity at the heart of the project.

6. Align with Strategic Partners, Including Aviation Safeguarding

Work constructively with stakeholders such as [Gatwick Airport Ltd](#) to: respect safeguarded land and aviation safety, integrate biodiversity net-gain, reinforce green buffers around airport infrastructure, and support climate-resilient land use.

This turns constraint into strategic coherence.

7. Adopt the Park Through a Formal Planning Instrument

Finally, secure the future of Ifield Park – Gatwick through: a Joint Area Action Plan (JAAP) or binding Local Plan policy designation, supported by community endorsement and long-term governance. This locks the vision into the democratic planning framework.

In Summary

This is not protest planning. It is lawful, democratic, collaborative place-making.

Ifield Park – Gatwick offers councils and partners a way to restore public trust, protect a historic parish, meet environmental duties, and replace conflict with consent.

Yours sincerely


The Ifield Society

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IFIELD PARK – GATWICK

A democratic alternative to Homes England's masterplan



1 STOP PREMATURE DEVELOPMENT

Refuse or withdraw the unsound West of Ifield masterplan.



2 RESTORE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

Councils convene a joint planning forum with the parish.



3 PROTECT THE LAND NOW

Safeguard recreation, ecology, and floodplain function.



4 DESIGNATE A LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

Secure Ifield Brook, meadows, and landscape corridors.



5 CREATE A HERITAGE & ECOLOGY CENTRE

Celebrate parish history, water, wildlife, and learning.



6 WORK WITH STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Align with aviation safety, biodiversity, and climate duty.



7 ADOPT THROUGH FORMAL POLICY

Lock the Park into Local Plans or a Joint Action Plan.

Protecting the Parish. Restoring Trust.

This proposal restores public trust, protects an ancient parish, and delivers a lawful, democratic future for West of Ifield.