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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 February 2026 21:44
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: NEW PLANNING INSPECTOR APPOINTED FOR HORSHAM LOCAL PLAN AND WEST OF IFIELD ASSESSMENT

Categories: Comments Received

NEW PLANNING INSPECT

TIME TO PAUSE & REVIEW

**WEST OF IFFIELD:
UNSTABLE GROUND**



Dear Editor,

The Planning Inspectorate has now changed the Inspector for the Examination of the Horsham Local Plan, including the highly contentious West of Ifield allocation.

This is not a routine substitution. The Inspectorate's own letter makes clear that the policy context has "changed considerably", following national decisions to abolish the Duty to Cooperate, and that the Examination would place unsustainable demands on the original Inspector's time.

A new Inspector has therefore been appointed, and an "exploratory" meeting is still likely to be scheduled for February 26th - to be livestreamed.

This matters.

A change of Inspector at this stage inevitably resets the process. It removes any assumption that the Examination is simply a matter of fine-tuning, and reopens fundamental questions about whether the Local Plan — and the evidence underpinning strategic sites such as West of Ifield — can properly proceed in their current form.

For local communities, this is not about delay or obstruction. It is about procedural fairness, legitimacy, and ensuring that decisions of lasting consequence are taken in a stable and lawful policy context.

At a time when irreversible actions appear to be occurring in advance of any democratic conclusion [eg Homes England's closure of Ifield Golf Club], the Inspector change should prompt caution, not haste.

The February meeting is therefore more than a technical exercise. It is a moment when the planning system must demonstrate that it remains open, fair, and genuinely evidence-led.

Yours sincerely



The Ifield Society

2 Lychgate Cottages

Ifield Street, Ifield Village

Crawley, West Sussex

RH11 0NN

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ifield