

Dear HDC

Re Land East of 1 To 25 Hayes Lane Slinfold West Sussex DC/25/2006

I write to object to the plan for 38 new houses.

I want to present to you clear evidence that the current surface water drainage in the village of Slinfold is currently not sufficient and is not fit or capable of supporting further large scale housing developments **without first** providing improved measures to increase the capacity of the system for now and to accommodate further flow increases from climate change during the coming decades.

There are 2 main issues; currently the HIGH risk yearly flood predictions by DOE (ie one in 30 year storms) show (and is born out by real life flooding) that properties and roads along Hayes lane already flood (at **B** below), and secondly the multiple occurrences per year of flooding of Lyons road which is one of the strategic main entrances/exits to the village (**D**). See map below



AS predicted in the DOE map at location **C**, there is current occurrences of over topping of the east ditch. Escaped water then flows across fields and onto Lyons road at location **D**. The real life evidence of this over topping is shown below – a picture taken near location C looking south, the ditch is on the right and water has escaped and is flooding onto the field and running towards Lyons Road at **D** where it floods the road. This picture was taken on 5.1.25 after 27mm rain in 24 hours



On the same day below is the progress of water flowing towards Lyons Road



The end result is Lyons Road flooding at location D as shown below



Examination of the above referenced DOE annual flooding risk map, shows at **A** . the proposed site , and a largish area of attenuated water. This area could be excavated to create a true storage pond so it can properly and safely store a greater volume of water so as to reduce the current downstream ditch flows. The diameter of the culvert pipe that goes under the old railway at **A** could be reduced so that more water is restricted and stored at **A** - meaning less water than at present, going down the ditch towards Six Acres and onwards to the east side of the village ending at Lyons Road at D . Thats a simple cost effective way of storing the water at A and improving the drainage resilience. If only 15 houses were to be allowed (?), more land would be available for such water storage. This measure would enhance the resilience of existing drainage and provide excess capacity for the climate changed future of more intense storms.

The evidence that the occurrence of flooding has already increased in the last 2 decades is as follows. The overtopping of the ditch and flooding seems to accurately equate to a 25mm and above rain storm in 24hrs. Taking the Gov figures of rainfall from the nearby Itchingfield monitoring station we see an increasing number of these events happening in line with climate change predictions. The number of these events has gone from an average of 1-2 times a year to 4 in the last 20 years, ie 100% increase. This increase will continue and HDC therefore has a duty to make it a planning necessity that the surface drainage capacity of the village is improved **before** any new sizable development is agreed. The evidence is below. (some years are not available)

Year Number of above 25mm 24hr storms (data from Itchingfield rainfall monitor)

2024 ...	4
2023	2
2022	4
2021	0
2010	2
2009	1
2008	3
2007	2
2006	0
2005	1
2004	2
2003	1