

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.

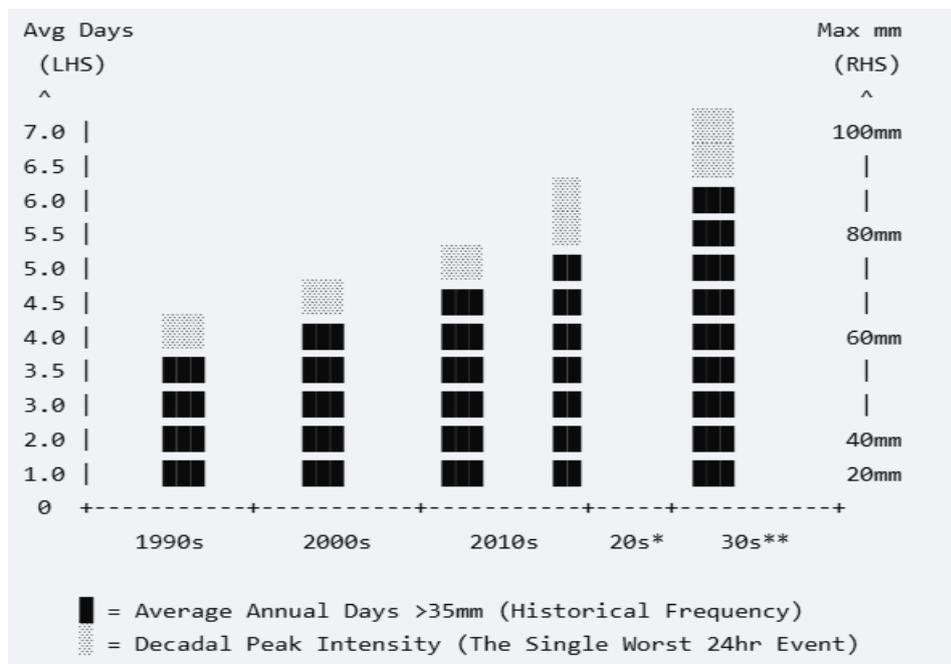
As proposed, this development will discharge surface water into existing ditches and culverts that are already at peak capacity. The drainage infrastructure of Slinfold was not designed for the combined **cummulative** load of large-scale modern development and the intensified weather caused by climate change.

The ditches and pipes of the village cannot cope with more large scale housing development AND the ever increasing wetness due to climate change. The two combined will create more flooding in the village. WSCC and HDC have a duty to adapt to climate change and not to exacerbate it.

HDC must accept and take into account that the village is surrounded by Wealden clay which when saturated will cause high and immediate surface water runoff which will increase flooding occurrence.

HDC must understand how the 'at capacity' situation has happened in advance of climate change predictions. The rainfall locally in Slinfold has been on a sharply increasing trend as shown in the below graph which uses data from the Itchingfield rainfall monitor station just 2miles from Slinfold village. The trend already causes regular road flooding in Slinfold which is now in a vulnerable state ahead of further climate induced rainfall increases.

The below graph shows the average number of heavy rain days (over 35mm in one day) per year over the last few decades. In the 1990's Slinfold had 3 days on average per year, this has risen by 100% to 6 days per year in the 2020's. The added issue to be understood is the max storm intensity has also increased from 52mm in the 1990s to 79mm in the 2020s. This over and above GovUK forecasting but which is then used below to project the values into the 2030s.



(*) 2020s Actuals: Partial decade (2020–2026) based on current Environment Agency Itchingfield (E9290) records.

(**) 2030s Projections: Extrapolated trend following Met Office UKCP18 climate projections for South East England.

Under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), HDC and WSCC have a statutory duty to ensure that development is resilient to climate change and does not increase flood risk elsewhere. Allowing further load on an already overwhelmed system in a known "clay-sink" area directly contradicts this requirement.

HDC must examine the 'Climate Change Allowances' used in the developer's drainage strategy. Standard planning models typically apply a 40% uplift to historical data to account for future intensity. However, the Itchingfield (E9290) rainfall gauge records prove that Slinfold has already moved from a 1990s peak intensity of 52.4mm to a 2020s peak of 79.5mm—a real-world increase of over 51%. This confirms that the climate change intensity shift is occurring faster than current planning guidance assumes. By using standard 40% allowances, the developer is effectively under-engineering the SuDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems) for a 2026 reality, creating a significant and quantifiable risk of downstream flooding for the existing residents of Slinfold."

Therefore I urge the council to refuse this application until drainage infrastructure is upgraded in accordance with a full, independent hydraulic catchment study of the Slinfold ditch/drainage network, which accounts for the 2026 climate reality rather than outdated historical averages.