

Sent:

20 January 2026 10:36

To:

Jason.Hawkes

Subject:

Fw: WAS HORSHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL PROVIDED WITH ALL THE RELEVANT FACTS ON WEST OF IFIELD TO MAKE AN INFORMED, DEMOCRATIC DECISION?

Attachments:

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Categories:

Comments Received

## WAS HORSHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL PROVIDED WITH ALL THE RELEVANT FACTS ON WEST OF IFIELD TO MAKE AN INFORMED, DEMOCRATIC DECISION?



Richard W Symonds

Recent debate about West of Ifield raises an important democratic question that deserves public clarity ['How da...

Dear Jason Hawkes and Team

Recent debate about West of Ifield raises an important democratic question that deserves public clarity ['How dare they', Crawley Observer, Jan 19].

Three years ago, councillors at [Horsham District Council](#) voted to include the West of Ifield option in their emerging Local Plan. That Plan has since been rejected by the Planning Inspector.

It is now legitimate to ask whether councillors — including those who supported the option at the time — were in possession of all the material information they should reasonably have had

before voting. If relevant risks, constraints, or consequences were not fully set out, then that original decision cannot credibly be treated as settled or binding.

This is not about party politics, blame, or hindsight. It is about the integrity of democratic decision-making. Local Plan votes are policy choices, not contracts. When a Plan fails Examination, councils are entitled — and arguably obliged — to revisit strategic options, especially where new evidence has emerged or earlier assumptions no longer hold.

Crucially, reconsidering a previous vote in such circumstances is not an admission of wrongdoing. It is a correction of process. Inspectors routinely expect councils to reflect honestly on why a Plan failed and to adjust course accordingly.

If material information was missing or unclear at the time of the December 2023 vote, then councillors are perfectly entitled to say so — and to take a different view now. Doing so would strengthen public trust, not undermine it.

Democracy does not mean being locked forever into a decision taken under imperfect conditions. It means being willing to revisit choices when evidence, scrutiny, and due process demand it.

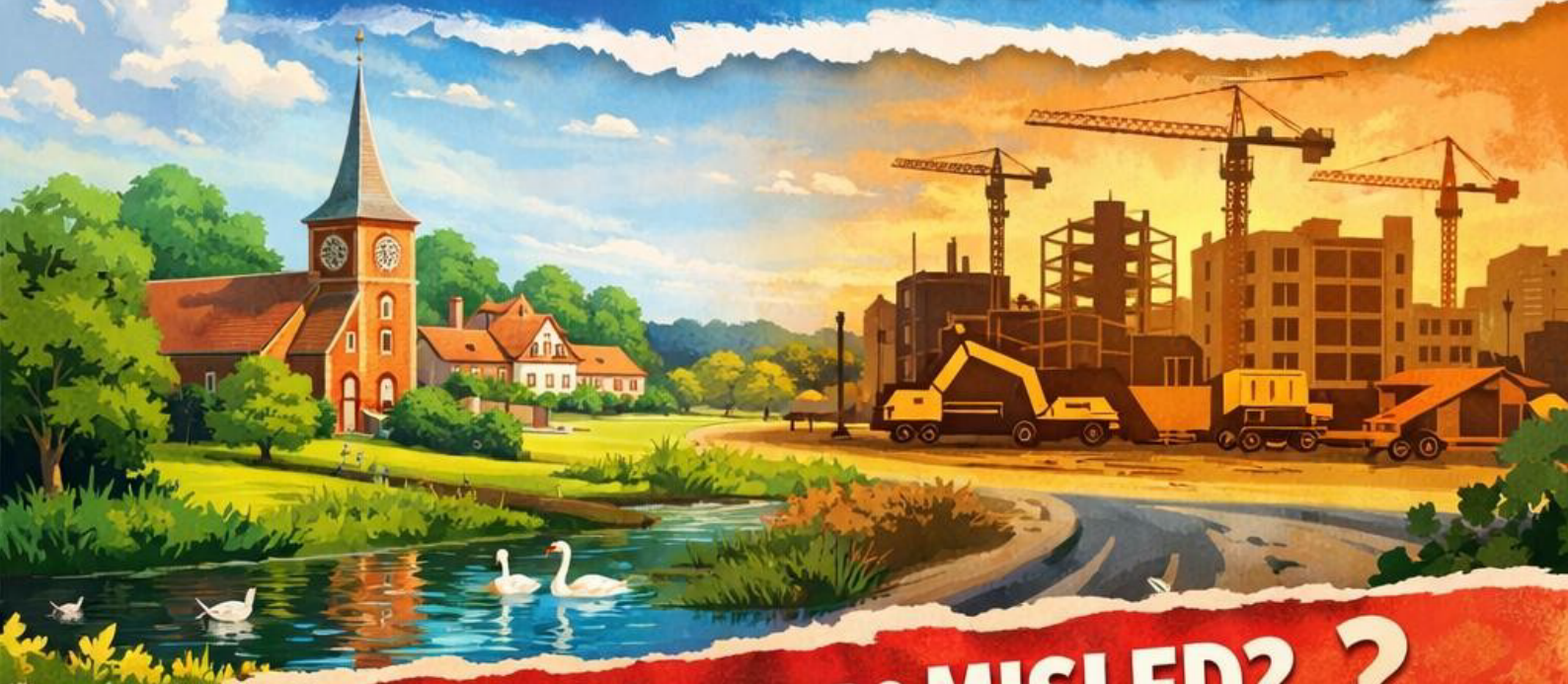
Yours sincerely

  
The Ifield Society

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Ifield Street, Ifield Village  
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# WAS ALL THE INFORMATION PROVIDED?



? WERE COUNCILLORS MISLED? ?

? WERE RISKS IGNORED? ?

LOCAL PLAN

**PLAN REJECTED**

**MISSING  
FACTS?**

## IT'S TIME TO RECONSIDER WEST OF I FIELD?

**DEMOCRACY DESERVES THE TRUTH**