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[REDACTED]

**Sent:**

[REDACTED]  
28 January 2026 07:36

**To:**

Jason.Hawkes

**Subject:**

[REDACTED]  
Fw: LIVESTREAM ON FEBRUARY 26

**Categories:**

Comments Received

[Sent from the all-new AOL app for iOS](#)

Begin forwarded message:

On Wednesday, January 28, 2026, 7:15 AM, [REDACTED]

Dear Cllr Michael Jones - CBC Leader

Further to my email to you on January 23. and today's Crawley Observer (see below), could you look at the possibility of Live-streaming this important event at the CBC offices.

Thank you for considering this request.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]  
lfield

OPINION

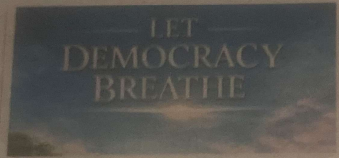
# Let's Talk

EMAIL: [crawleyobserver@sussexnewspapers.co.uk](mailto:crawleyobserver@sussexnewspapers.co.uk)

Please keep letters to a maximum of 200 words. Letters cannot be published without a name and postal address. Also include a daytime phone number if possible. We reserve the right to edit any letter.

## Test of process

On Thursday (February 24th), the Planning Inspector has convened an exploratory procedural meeting with Horsham District Council to decide whether the Local Plan examination can realistically continue. This meeting is not about housing numbers or site allocations. It is a test of sound process, legal compliance and democratic integrity. The public will not be invited to participate, which is normal for a procedural meeting. What is unusual — and important — is that the Planning Inspector has instructed that the meeting be livestreamed. That innovation matters. Livestreaming recognises the exceptional level



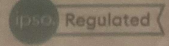
See Richard Symonds letter

of public interest and acknowledges that democracy depends not only on decisions being made, but on the process being seen to breathe freely — calmly, openly, and without undue pressure. In response, local community groups are seeking to make arrangements for a 'live-by-the-watch', so that residents and interested parties can observe

the meeting publicly, either online or through organised, observation-only community viewings. There will be no commentary. No participation. No intervention. Just the opportunity to observe the democratic process at work. When irreversible actions are taken before democratic decisions are reached, pressure is placed on the planning system itself. Trust is weakened. Democratic oxygen is reduced. The Inspector is now asking a simple but fundamental question: Can this examination proceed in a way that remains sound, lawful, and procedurally legitimate? By directing that the meeting be livestreamed — and by enabling public observation — this

moment belongs not only to institutions, but to the communities they serve. Sometimes the most democratic act is not to shout louder, but to pause, to watch carefully, and to ensure that judgment is reached because it is right — not because it is rushed. That is what it means to let democracy breathe. Richard W. Symonds MCIPD The Ifield Society Ifield Street, Ifield Village

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On Friday, January 23, 2026, 4:57 PM, [REDACTED]

Dear Michael

Hope all well - missed your Talk on the postponed Meeting last Wednesday.

I was wondering if it would be possible for you at CBC to host the Livestream on February 26?

<https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/news/opinion/letter-to-the-editor-let-democracy-breathe-5487252>

If there is a formal procedure to request this, please could you let me know.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]