

David Radtke

Independent for West Hailsham

4th May 2023

A better way is possible!

Conservative Council leaders have been planning a growth area in South Wealden for many years. Their vision is for thousands of new houses supported by jobs and industry, with infrastructure to support a new community.

What do we have?

- Mass unplanned housing
- Gridlocked and pot-holed roads
- Health services at over capacity
- Drainage system at breaking point
- An Increase in flooding
- Loss of precious green fields and wildlife habitat

Why has this happened and what can be done?

David Radtke Independent

Why has this happened?

There have been three failed Local Plans since 2013. The latest one was rejected by the Planning Inspectorate in 2019. The Conservative central government have imposed a housing target of 1225 houses a year for the next 20 years. Without a plan in place, Wealden are vulnerable to speculative development and this has happened over the last 5 years. Hence, unplanned suburban sprawl with inadequate infrastructure.

We need to shape a new plan that challenges housing numbers and respects the environment and wishes of residents as well as economic growth and development.

Land to the west of the A22

New development has so far occurred in North, East and South Hailsham, with West Hailsham largely untouched. Landowners West of the A22 have put their land up for development, and wealthy land promoters Grosvenor Estates have published plans for 2500 houses over the floodplain of the River Cuckmere. This will mean:

- An increse in the present population of Hailsham by one third.
- An extra 5000 cars on the road.
- Sewage - The Cuckmere has already been poluted to the point that it hardly supports aquatic life.
- Flooding will only get worse.
- Water quality - Only a mile or so down river from the site is Arlington Reservoir which provides our water.
- Destruction of a rare wildlife eco-system - The river was home to a variety of wildlife. The wetlands either side support a number of rare species such as the Adonis Blue Butterfly and the Southern Damselfly which thrive in this area.

Grosvenor Estates have been holding high level talks with Wealden and ESCC leaders for some years. It is important that you as West Hailsham residents have effective representation before it is too late.

A Better Way Is Possible

What can be done?

As a chartered architect, I have experience and knowledge gained from 35 years in the planning, design and construction industry. I feel motivated to contribute to a vision for Wealden and properly evaluate decisions taken. I have spent the last 3 years scrutinising and questioning Wealden Council leadership and our local MP on housing matters. I have obtained information though persistence and freedom of information requests to find out what is being planned by the Conservative administraton on your behalf.

If elected as a District Councillor I will promise the following:

- I will work cross party with Councillors to shape a plan that works for all and not dictated by political dogma.
- I will champion a plan that acknowledges Hailsham as a rural market town that is not well served by existing roads and infrastructure, but can accommodate limited and sensible growth reflecting the needs and concerns of 2023 and the declared climate emergency.
- I will support a plan that encourages homes built for local need - affordable and well located, in additon to a sensible amount of market housing.
- I will support a plan that respects the rural characteristics of the Low Weald and the natural environment. Our countryside should be treated with respect.

'Grosvenor Britain and Ireland has been appointed to promote the development of a new community of around 2,500 homes on land north-west of Hailsham in East Sussex. The company's strategic land team has signed a partnership with local landowners and will seek the site's allocation within Wealden District Council's local plan'.

Contact Details

David Radtke
Davidradtke5@gmail.com
07710172523



The proposed Grosvenor Site for 2500 Houses West of the A22 - October 2021



Until the Second World War Otters were common in the wetlands of Sussex such as the Cuckmere valley. Hunting and pollution made them almost extinct in the 1970's.

Lets get them back!

Promoted by Peter Lumsden for David Radtke
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