

Ref 15 Highways England

For attention of:	Horsham District Council
Consultation:	Rudgwick Neighbourhood Development Plan Regulation 16 Consultation
Highways England's Reference:	#11487

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your notification dated 2 October 2020, inviting Highways England to comment on the Rudgwick Neighbourhood Development Plan Regulation 16 Consultation, seeking responses no later than 20 November 2020.

Highways England has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport as strategic highway company under the provisions of the Infrastructure Act 2015 and is the highway authority, traffic authority and street authority for the strategic road network (SRN). The SRN is a critical national asset and as such Highways England works to ensure that it operates and is managed in the public interest, both in respect of current activities and needs as well as in providing effective stewardship of its long-term operation and integrity. We will therefore be concerned with proposals and policies that have the potential to impact the safe and efficient operation of the SRN. In the case of Rudgwick Parish our focus will be on any impact to the A3, and A23 / M23 corridor.

Highways England were consulted on the Rudgwick Neighbourhood Plan (Regulation 14) and provided a response of no objection on 17 February 2020. We have reviewed the Neighbourhood Plan and note the housing allocation for the parish remains at 50-60 over the plan period. As such, our previous response and position remains with no objection to the Neighbourhood Plan.

We would however reiterate the following comment made in our previous response:

We look to Horsham District Council to assess and mitigate any impacts of development in its emerging Local Plan to 2036, including housing to be provided through neighbourhood plans, upon the SRN. Highways England is concerned that the housing to be proposed across the district could have an adverse impact on the strategic road network in terms of safety and congestion, either cumulatively and/or as individual sites.

Whilst the individual impact of the proposed 50 to 60 dwellings is unlikely to have a noticeable effect on the safe and efficient operation of the Strategic Road Network, it is necessary for the Rudgwick Neighbourhood Plan to clarify that the transport impacts of development in the parish will be assessed cumulatively and any mitigation required on the strategic road network will be identified along with its funding source, before planning permission is granted. Ideally this assessment would

be carried out on a cumulative basis as part of the Horsham Transport Study supporting the emerging Local Plan to 2036, with mitigation and the means of its delivery identified in an Infrastructure Delivery Plan. The alternative is that detailed Transport Assessments could be submitted on an application by application basis, however this has the potential disadvantage that late coming development might have to carry a disproportionate share of any mitigation.

I trust that the above is of assistance and please continue to consult Highways England via our inbox: PlanningSE@highwaysengland.co.uk.

Kind regards

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Web: <http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk>

Please note that for the foreseeable future we are all working from home. All meetings will be via telephone, Skype or similar. We will continue to seek to work to our statutory and other deadlines. In case of IT or other issues, as a precaution, please copy all emails to PlanningSE@highwaysengland.co.uk . Thank you.

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