

DON'T URBANISE OUR VILLAGES

LEWES LOCAL PLAN – PLAY YOUR PART

WHY WE NEED YOUR HELP

The government wants us to build over 9,000 new houses in the Lewes District by 2040. They would be built in Ditchling, Plumpton, Wivelsfield, Newick, Barcombe, Chailey, Hamsey, Cooksbridge and Ringmer. More would also need to be squeezed into the coastal strip, which is already over-developed.

We believe 9,000 houses is far more than our villages and the surrounding countryside can cope with. Lewes District Council (LDC) have put together a sensible proposal that would mean building less new homes than the government wants. The government is likely to challenge their argument.

The lower number that LDC is suggesting would mean the council would not need to include in the local plan the large housing schemes proposed in Cooksbridge/Hamsey, Chailey, Newick and Ringmer. These sites are still very much under consideration.

It is also vital that we stress the need for the right sort of homes and stop developers chasing big profits. Developers have been allowed to run roughshod over the needs of communities and the environment and **this must stop**.

By filling in the questionnaire and responding to the public consultation you will be helping to preserve our landscape and the village way of life that we have enjoyed for generations. We simply do not have the space or the infrastructure to support 9,000 new houses in the district. **We must help the council stand by their lower house building numbers.**

Reading through all the material on the LDC website is a daunting undertaking, so we have done the hard work for you. We have reviewed the documents, consulted experts, and spoken to many of you. We have included in this document some suggestions for responding to the most critical questions. You are welcome to use them or adapt them. All you have to do is follow the instructions below.

THE EASIEST WAY TO RESPOND

1. Click on this link <http://tinyurl.com/DontUrbaniseOurVillages> and **DOWNLOAD** the Response Form.
2. Fill in your personal details on the front page.
3. Go to the following sections: **Aims and Vision, Spatial Strategy and Homes for Everyone Theme** and use or adapt the text we have drafted for you under the relevant headings.
4. Email the completed form to LocalPlan@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk or post it to: Lewes District Council, c/o Eastbourne Town Hall, Grove Road, Eastbourne, BN21 4UG.

Everyone in a household should comment separately. You do not need to live in the Parish. Please get your friends and family to comment. The Deadline has been extended until **Monday 19th February 2024**.

HERE ARE THE SUGGESTED ANSWERS

AIMS AND VISION

Under “What are your views on the proposed Vision and Aims?” Please consider using or adopting the following text:

Lewes District Council should ensure that policies robustly protect the rural landscape character and rural nature of much of Lewes District. Development in and around local villages should be limited to small areas that are proportionate to the size and the existing services of the location; and encroachment into greenfield rural land should be avoided.

Lewes District Council’s vision and aims should align with parish neighbourhood plans for realistic housing delivery and priorities in each parish.

The District Council should focus on the good opportunities for growth in the most sustainable towns in the district, through redevelopment and intensification of ‘brownfield’ land.

Many of the sites put forward by developers would be contrary to the council’s Vision and Aims. The development of large-scale housing in rural locations would contradict the Council’s aim of delivering new housing in the right places (i.e. in sustainable locations) and the impact on the adjoining National Park, heritage assets and biodiversity would be severe.

Future residents would be reliant on the private car for day-to-day transport and no employment opportunities would be provided on site, meaning that all future residents would be entirely dependent on employment opportunities outside of the immediate area and likely outside of the Lewes District boundary. This would fail to achieve sustainable place-making goals as residents would not be rooted in their local area, nor would they contribute to the local economy. The use of private cars would increase carbon emissions that would have a detrimental impact on local biodiversity and air quality. The local rail and bus services do NOT increase sustainability. The services are too infrequent.

SPATIAL STRATEGY

Under “Do you agree that the proposed range identified to determine the housing requirement is the correct approach? If not, please explain why?” Please copy and paste the following text:

I support setting a target at the lower end of the house building range. This lower target needs to consider the impact of new housing on landscape and the environment, the existing pattern of rural settlements and the housing needs of the local community. The high number of houses currently suggested by the Government’s method of calculating ‘need’ is out-of-date and will result in the infrastructure of the area being over-whelmed by housing development. Lewes District Council’s lower estimate of housing need is based on more up-to-date housing projections from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) and local circumstances. The lowest number also reduces the pressure to include inappropriately large-scale settlements in the local plan.

HOMES FOR EVERYONE THEME

Under, “Do you agree with the emphasis on securing two-bedroom homes through new development and retaining smaller homes in the housing stock? If not, please explain why”, we suggest the following text. This would ensure that we are building homes for young families and couples in the area.

Yes, I agree.

Under, “Do you agree with the affordable housing policy direction that is being set in the Affordable Housing policy? If not, please identify how it could be changed”, we suggest the following text. This would ensure that young families would be able to buy homes in the district.

Yes, I agree.

Under, “Do you agree with prioritising rented affordable tenures over affordable home ownership tenures? If not, please explain why you think different tenure proportions should be sought”, we suggest the following text. This would ensure that everyone, including those on lower incomes, would be able to have a home in the district.

Yes, I agree.

IF YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT A PARTICULAR SITE(S)

If you would like to comment on a specific site, please follow the steps below:

1. Click on this link:
[Login or Register - Planning Policy Consultations - Towards a Lewes Local Plan: Spatial Strategy and Policy Directions - Lewes and Eastbourne Planning Policy Consultations \(lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk\)](#)
2. You will need to register an account if you haven't already got one. It's easy and takes a minute.
3. You will now see a heading: “**Comment on an Evidence Document (including a Land Availability Assessment Site)**” Under “**1. Evidence Document Name**”, enter the site name. Under “**2. Comments**”, please include anything you feel strongly about.

If you can, please supplement your comments with some more detail using your **local knowledge, experience and any expertise**.

Alternatively, you could email the council directly giving your views. Just ensure you include your **name and address and site name**. Email the Council at LocalPlan@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk

PLEASE REMEMBER TO COMPLETE THE QUESTIONNAIRE TOO. IF YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT A BIG SITE, THE BEST THING YOU CAN DO IS RESPOND TO THE CRITICAL QUESTIONS ABOVE AND HELP THE COUNCIL DEFEND THEIR TARGET NUMBERS. IT REALLY IS IMPORTANT AND WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

HAVING PROBLEMS?

Simply send an email to the Council (LocalPlan@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk) giving your views. Just ensure you include your **name and address**.

WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO?

If you have time and wish to do so, we encourage you to respond to the whole of the questionnaire. If you have specific concerns with your area or would like to raise issues close to your heart, please use this opportunity to identify them. You do not need to respond to every single question, just the ones that matter to YOU.

NEED MORE HELP ON SPECIFIC SITES

Hamsey/Cooksbridge

<https://www.donturbanisehamsey.org>

info@donturbanisehamsey.org

Woodgate Meadow, Plumpton Green

barney.holbeche@talk21.com

Eton New Town

<https://www.donturbanisethedowns.org>

Barcombe

barcombesaysno@gmail.com

USEFUL LINK(S)

Consultation document – The main one

[Consultation Document](#)

Consultation document – Summary

[Summary Document](#)

Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/DontUrbaniseVillages>