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Report:	<b>7. Budget Report</b>
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### Summary

No expenditure to date.

With the District Plan currently under (critical) scrutiny, the government's plans for increased housebuilding, and devolution proposals, it would appear more likely that the Planning Reserve may be required in the foreseeable future.

### Current Position

Description	Cost Centre / Reserve	Budget 2025-26	Expenditure	Balance
Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI) <sup>1</sup>	4973	£400	£0	£400
<b>sub-total Budget</b>		<b>£400</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£400</b>
<b>Earmarked Reserve</b>				
Planning Reserve <sup>2</sup>	4995/335	£4,000		£4,000
SID Replacement <sup>3</sup>	4936/336	£3,500		£3,500
<b>sub-total Reserves</b>		<b>£7,500</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£7,500</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>£7,900</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£7,900</b>

### Notes

1. To meet RTPI annual maintenance charge
2. Planning Reserve – in anticipation of external costs which may be incurred (e.g. reviewing the Neighbourhood Plan, addressing unforeseen planning issues, pursuing sustainable transport initiatives)
3. To meet the anticipated cost of repairing/replacing one of the ageing early SIDs, which are now over 5 years old and outside of the manufacturers guarantee period.

### Recommended Action

For noting.

**David Parsons**  
Deputy Parish Clerk

17<sup>th</sup> July 2025

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Report: **8. Outstanding Action Points**

Minute	Meeting date	Subject	Action Agreed	Responsibility	Due Date	Status	Date Completed	Comments
285.1	29/10/24	TRO	whether WSCC would be seeking to update Satnav systems to reflect the newly erected 'unsuitable for HGV signs'	Deputy Parish Clerk	29/12/24	Overdue		See also 273.1 above Email sent to WSCC 12/11/24, Chased 17/12/24, 14/1/25, 4/3/25. Meeting WSCC 3/4/25 - Adam Denby / Andy Tuck undertook to find out
352 363.1	18/03/25 8/4/25	Joint Neighbourhood Plan	Cllr Webster advised that Lindfield Rural Parish Council were unlikely to comment further in the foreseeable future and LPC would therefore need to consider its approach accordingly	tba	tba	Not Started		363.1 Committee agreed that this should remain as an outstanding item for future consideration
402	13/6/25	Traffic & Transport WG	Deputy Parish Clerk should circulate potential meeting dates for an early meeting to take matters forward.	Deputy Parish Clerk	1/7/25	Completed	20/6/25	Meeting arranged and undertaken 20/6/25 Working Group now progressing accordingly

**Recommended Action**

1. To note the currently outstanding action points and consider any further action required.

**David Parsons**  
Deputy Parish Clerk

17th July 2025

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Report: 9. MSDC Response re DP 39 – Sustainable Design & Construction

**Summary:**

XXX.

**Background:**

Minute 338.1 at PTTC 25/2/25 required a letter to be sent to MSDC - Contact MSDC to gain a better understanding of the efficacy and import of DP 39 when considering planning applications. The letter was agreed in Minute 377 at PTTC 29/4/25 and is shown below:-

*Lindfield Parish Council*

The Clock Tower House  
Lindfield Enterprise Park  
Lewes Road  
Lindfield  
West Sussex  
RH16 2LH

Parish Clerk: Mr A Funnell

Tel: 01444 484115  
e-mail: [clerks@lindfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerks@lindfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Andrew Marsh  
Head of Planning Policy and Housing Enabling  
Mid Sussex District Council  
Oaklands  
Oaklands Road  
Haywards Heath  
West Sussex  
RH16 1SS

2nd May 2025

Dear Andrew,

**DP 39 – Sustainable Design and Construction**

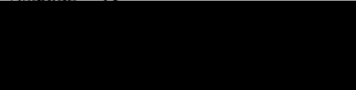
Lindfield Parish Council's Planning, Transport and Traffic Committee (PTTC) is keen to ensure that changes in housing stock are undertaken with an appropriate approach to sustainability and the environment.

MSDC's policy DP 39 contains several elements which support this aim and the PTTC was therefore disappointed to read *"The response from Lindfield Parish Council (LPC) refers to policy DP39 of the Mid Sussex District Plan, which relates to sustainable design and construction. It is the role of the Local Planning Authority to assess the scheme that is before them, which does not include solar panels. This would not prevent the applicant from potentially installing solar panels in the future and the development would still need to meet Building Regulations standards. It is therefore considered that this would not warrant the refusal of this application."* in the report for DM/24/2698.

Members would very much like to understand how policy DP 39 is addressed when planning applications are being considered by MSDC. Based on this example, it does appear that despite good intentions, the policy is not (or perhaps cannot be?) effectively applied.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,



David Parsons  
Deputy Parish Clerk

**Current Position/Way Forward**

After chasing, MSDC have responded as follows:-

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Oaklands Road  
Haywards Heath  
West Sussex  
RH16 1SS

Switchboard: 01444 458166

DX 300320 Haywards Heath 1  
[www.midsussex.gov.uk](http://www.midsussex.gov.uk)

Contact:  
Steve Ashdown  
[Steve.ashdown@midsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Steve.ashdown@midsussex.gov.uk)

2<sup>nd</sup> July 2025

Mr David Parsons  
Deputy Parish Clerk  
Lindfield Parish Council

By email only

Dear David

**Re: DP39 – Sustainable Design and Construction**

I refer to your letter of 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025 regarding the above that has been passed to me by my colleague Andrew Marsh to respond too as the Head of Development Management. It is my team who are responsible for the implementation of the policies within the Development Plan.

In respect of the application of policy DP39 of the District Plan in relation development proposals, it is important to recognise that whilst the wording of the policy is supportive of improving the sustainability of developments, it does not set out any prescriptive standards for developments to achieve in respect of carbon emission reductions. Similarly, the wording of principle DG37 of the Council's Design Guide seeks applicants to demonstrate and consider sustainable matters as part of their design approach, including the use of renewable technologies, but is does not require their use.

Currently Building Regulations set the energy efficiency standards to be applied across the country, which sit outside the planning process and are not material in the determination of a planning application. Compliance with Building Regulations is mandatory.

As such, in the determination of planning applications, we will seek to support a development proposals incorporation of sustainable measures, unless there is an overriding harm (i.e. impact to a listed building or Conservation Area), which indicate that it would not be appropriate in those specific circumstances.

Unfortunately, what we are not able to do, as highlighted by the case you have referred to in your letter, is require applicants, particularly those relating to householder developments (i.e. extensions and alterations to existing properties) to amend their proposals to include measures, such as solar panels, as there are no policy grounds to support such a request, and failure to include them would not amount to a reason for refusal. As set out above, an applicant will need to ensure that their proposal complies with the required standards for energy efficient set out in the Building Regulations.

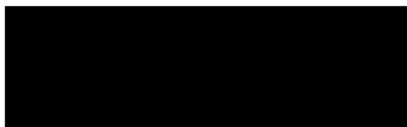
*Working together for a better Mid Sussex*

Ann Biggs  
Assistant Director Planning and Sustainable Economy



I trust that this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Steve Ashdown  
Head of Development Management

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Accordingly, it seems that Policy DP 39 is effectively ‘aspirational’ rather than ‘operational’ in the context of most planning applications. This is obviously disappointing, especially against the background of the recent Met Office report highlighting the UK’s changed and changing weather patterns due to climate change.

### **Way Forward / Recommended Action**

In the circumstances, it seems that at this time PTTC can only **note the response** but do little more in respect of MSDC’s current approach.

LPC is a member of CPRE whose campaigns include ‘roof top solar’ and has set a goal of 60% of solar power should come from roof top spaces. Its three priority asks include “*Put an end to ‘wasted space’ and retrofit all suitable domestic, commercial and public buildings with rooftop solar, particularly warehouses and car parks.*” The campaign asks for supporters to add their name to this campaign and, in coordination with the Climate Change Working Group, members may wish to consider whether LPC should add its support.

**David Parsons**  
**Deputy Parish Clerk**

17<sup>th</sup> July 2025

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Report:	<b>10. Transport and Traffic Working Group 2025</b>
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**Summary:****Report to follow****Background:**

~~The Working Group met for the first time on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2025 to consider the way forward for traffic calming proposals in the village.~~

**Current Position/Way Forward**

~~The initial meeting of the working group agreed that its focus should be on achieving 20mph speed limits, as this would also underpin any future 'school travel' initiatives. Further, that following WSCC Highways online presentation on Community Highways Schemes (CHS) and Traffic Restriction Orders (TRO) attended by Cllr Woolley and the Deputy Parish Clerk, it was made clear that WSCC would only consider one application from a parish at any one time. Accordingly, working group members would now focus their efforts on submitting an appropriate CHS Application to WSCC to introduce 20mph speed limits and the following timetable was agreed:-~~

- ~~1. WG members to agree a communication to businesses, schools and the medical centre, seeking support for a 20mph scheme (residents' support being evidenced by the change.org petition organised by Fairer World Lindfield)~~
- ~~2. Next WG meeting after PTTC on 1/7~~
- ~~3. Draft CHS application to PTTC 22/7 with supporting report, evidence of community and ward councillor's support~~
- ~~4. PTTC recommendation to Full Council 24/7~~
- ~~5. Submit application to WSCC by month end~~

~~Actions were allocated to working group members and are progressing to meet the timetable above. Perhaps the most important date to note is that 2025 applications for Community Highways Schemes close at the end of July.~~

**Recommended Action**

~~None at the present time — working group members are working towards meeting WSCC's deadline and will present a draft application and report to PTTC on 22<sup>nd</sup> July. Assuming that this is supported by PTTC, it will then be submitted to Full Council on 24<sup>th</sup> July.~~

**David Parsons**  
Deputy Parish Clerk

17<sup>th</sup> July 2025