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Report:	9i. MSDC District Plan Update
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Summary:

Advice of MSDC's Legal Challenge to the Secretary of State following the Planning Inspectorate's advice that it is considering failing the area's updated District Plan – full press release shown in Appendix One.

Recommended Action

For noting / consideration of any further action.

David Parsons
Deputy Parish Clerk

5th June 2025

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Report:	10. Budget Report
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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) ¹	4973	£400	£0	£400
sub-total Budget		£400	£0	£400
Earmarked Reserve				
Planning Reserve ²	4995/335	£4,000		£4,000
SID Replacement ³	4936/336	£3,500		£3,500
sub-total Reserves		£7,500	£0	£7,500
Total		£7,900	£0	£7,900

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.

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Report:	9. Outstanding Action Points
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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

Recommended Action

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

David Parsons
Deputy Parish Clerk

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Report:	10. Transport and Traffic Working Group 2025
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Summary:

This report summarises the arrangements agreed for this working group and seeks members consideration of the next steps to progress matters.

Background:

Please refer to PTTC Minutes as detailed for background information:

- 8th April 2025 Item 364
- 29th April 2025 Item 376
- 20th May 2025 Item 388

Remit

To investigate traffic calming, pedestrian safety and sustainable travel approaches across the village, under three workstreams:

1. **Community Engagement** – regular articles and communication through the Council's social media / website and Lindfield Gossip, as appropriate
2. Initial focus on a potential **20mph speed limit**, before considering any wider traffic management schemes
3. **School Travel** - School Streets/Safer Routes to school

Working Group Membership

1. Community Engagement	2. 20mph speed limit	3. School travel
Cllr Matthews Cllr Webster	Cllr Woolley Cllr Burns	Cllr Beecroft Cllr Upton

Current Position/Way Forward

Following agreement of working group membership, members to agree when / how to meet (e.g. f2f, online, location, timing and who is making those arrangements) as well as the involvement, if any, of the parish office staff. The basis of reporting has not yet been set – it is suggested that the working group agrees with PTTC whether to report to every PTTC meeting, after agreed milestones (which need to be set), or as needed following substantive developments.

The Parish Office has already commenced dialogue with WSCC Highways and '[20s plenty for us](#)' and will share this material with the working group accordingly. Officers from WSCC Highways have indicated their willingness to meet with the working group as appropriate.

Cllr Woolley and the Deputy Parish Clerk recently attended an online briefing given by WSCC Highways in respect of Traffic Restriction Orders and Community Highways Scheme and will share the material / update the working group accordingly. Perhaps the most important takeaway is that **applications for Community Highways Schemes close at the end of July** and working group members will need to consider whether to try and meet that deadline or whether a more measured approach might be required to ensure that the best possible case is submitted.

PTTC discussions had previously included whether to invite others (e.g. member of the public with an interest in these issues) and the working group will need to consider this accordingly.

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Recommended Action

Working Group members to agree the next steps, as detailed above, and make the appropriate arrangements.

David Parsons
Deputy Parish Clerk

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Appendix Four

MSDC Press Release

Mid Sussex District Council to Challenge Secretary of State

02/06/2025



Mid Sussex District Council has launched a legal challenge against the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government after being advised by the Planning Inspectorate that it is considering failing the area's District Plan.

After examination of the Plan in November, the Council has waited five months to hear from the Inspector.

The Inspector's findings are that the Council has failed in its Duty to Cooperate with neighbouring Councils, simply because it did not say specifically which neighbouring Councils would benefit from the 1,000 additional houses Mid Sussex will build to help them meet their housing needs.

The Council considers this to be an extraordinary response to a technical matter that could easily be remedied another way.

Mid Sussex is the only council in West Sussex to meet its housing targets, whilst also agreeing to build extra houses to help its neighbours, Horsham and Crawley. The Council has also delivered an unprecedented number of new houses in recent years – over 1,000 per year.

The effect of the Inspector's findings could be to leave Mid Sussex unprotected from speculative development. This is because, if the Council followed the Inspector's findings, it would need to start its plan making from scratch. This would take at least 30 months and over £1m. Mid Sussex is due to be dissolved, under the Government's plans for reorganisation, in 2028.

It is for these reasons that the Council feels it must legally challenge the Inspector's views.

The Leader of Mid Sussex District Council, Cllr Robert Eggleston (Liberal Democrat) said:

"Mid Sussex has drawn up its Plan following the advice of very senior planning lawyers and advisors, so we are understandably amazed at the Inspector's rationale.

"It is extraordinary that the Inspector has ignored the evidence we provided. The same evidence that has previously satisfied other Inspectors."

This view is backed by the Leader of the Conservative Group, Cllr Marsh who said:

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Appendix Four

MSDC Press Release

"I have a lot of experience of planning, and this has left me speechless. Our Plan was well supported by our communities, neighbouring councils, and many leading house builders. This is deeply worrying."

Mid Sussex District Council started work on updating the area's District Plan in 2021. It guides the use of land and development across Mid Sussex until 2039.

"The practical effect of the Inspector's conclusions are that the District will not be able to defend itself against speculative, opportunistic planning applications. This is against everything we believe," added Cllr Marsh.

"Plan-led housing growth is the proper way to do things; not like this. The Inspector could have modified our Plan at the next Stage to remedy the technical issue identified. This approach is irrational and disproportionate.

Mid Sussex District Council has sought independent advice and will be challenging the Inspector's decision, which has taken an exceptional five months to be delivered.

Cllr Eggleston said: "We are left with no choice. We must protect Mid Sussex from unplanned, speculative development.

"We have worked diligently for many years to undertake the work thoroughly and in accordance with government guidance and the law. The Inspector's ill-founded conclusions are a slap in the face for proper Plan making and the patient, careful work needed to build consensus amongst communities and with our partners."

Please see our [District Plan Review](#) & [District Plan Review - Examination](#)