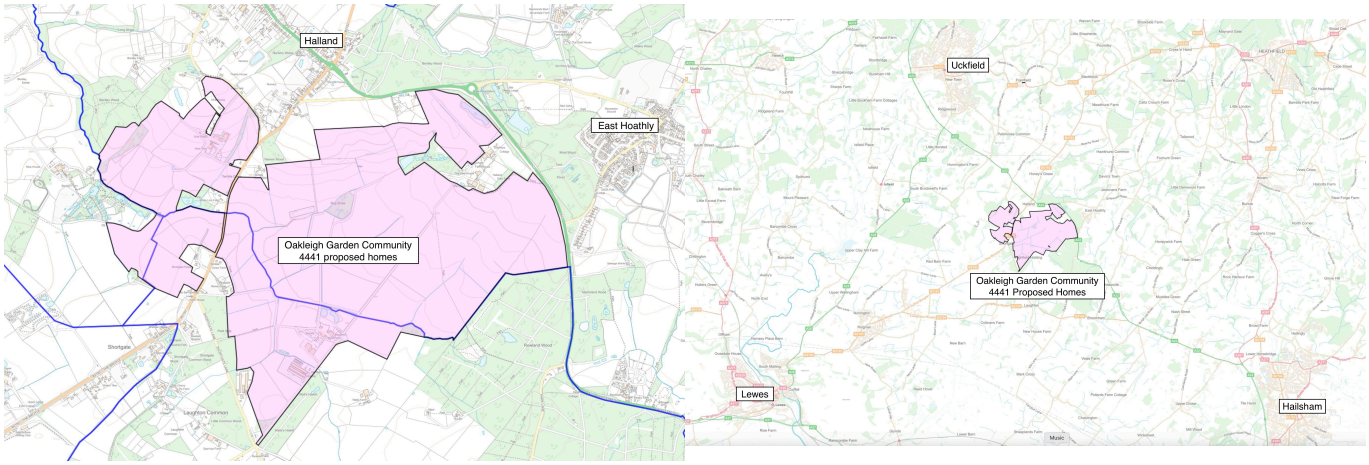
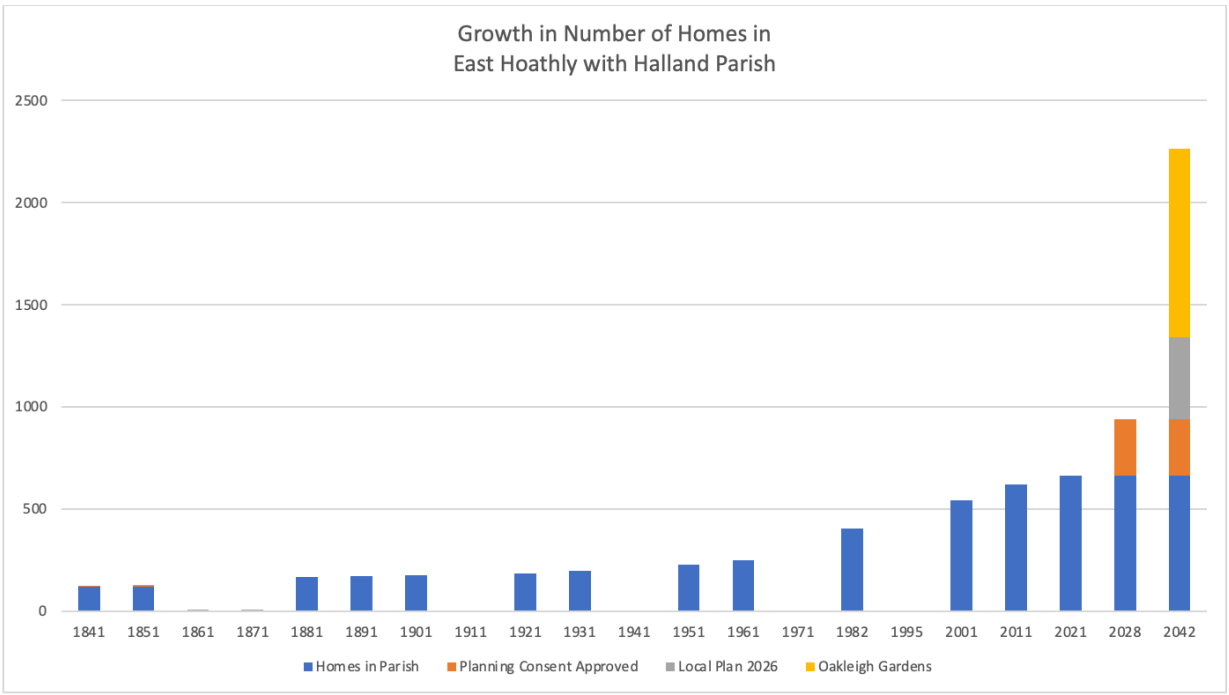
New “Focused” Draft Local Plan - Oakleigh/Halland

Wealden District Council (WDC) have published a new “Focused” Draft Local Plan (LP) for a second Regulation 18 Consultation. This adds new details to the draft they published in January 2024. The number of homes allocated to this Parish has changed very slightly from 686 to 650. The period of the LP has also been extended to 2042. An additional 650 homes up to 2042 is still a grotesque figure - a 4 fold increase since 2009 in the number of homes in East Hoathly village. This is unsustainable development - no new jobs, car dependent and no strategic plan for the village.

In addition to 650 new homes, the Draft LP also includes the Oakleigh Garden’s site (West of Halland) included as a “Possible” inclusion (after further examination). This increases the devastating prospect of up to 4,441 homes. Currently limited to only 925 by 2042 but once approved for some homes, the rest will follow. The Draft LP allocates 16,609 homes in the District - still 8,160 short of the government target. The pressure to change Oakleigh from “Possible” to “Allocation” will be strong.



This will represent a 4 fold increase in the number of homes in the Parish since 2009.



This proposal is an abomination - a car dependent town with no significant infrastructure or facilities disgorging cars onto already congested roads. Significant harm to the landscape and environment and building on a site that regularly floods. All because a farmer no longer wants to produce food. It is a strategically poor site and should be rejected. The Draft LP only mentions Halland to categorise it as a Type 5 Neighbourhood unsustainable settlement. Therefore no growth, no improvements to infrastructure nor facilities. Halland is just ignored but will have to cope with the devastation of a new town being built to the West.

Consultation Period runs from 6 Feb to 20 Mar

There will be a public exhibition in East Hoathly Village Hall

Saturday 21 February, 10 am to 4 pm

Come and speak to WDC Councillors/Planners

Some things you might want to ask them:

How can Halland be unsustainable yet you propose to build 925 homes adjacent to it ?

Is this site strategically important in Wealden or is it because a farmer has put it forward for development.

Where is your strategic assessment of this site and how did you determine that 925 or the 4441 homes could be built ?

Which part of the site are you proposing is suitable and what jobs and facilities will it include ?

You have categorised Halland as unsustainable but what is the defined boundary of the settlement ?

Where is your plan to enable the A22 and B2192 to cope with the traffic and why is it not in your transport plan ?

We urge you to complain in the strongest terms.

Please Comment - We encourage you and your family/friends to make as many representations as possible. If you want more information visit: **villageconcerns.co.uk**

You have until 20 March to make your comments. WDC have provided Guidance Notes and a video to explain how to use the consultation portal. Go to the online WLP Consultation page: **https://consult.wealden.gov.uk/kpse/event/824145D5-F232-46DB-8D17-F27618B47E87/section**