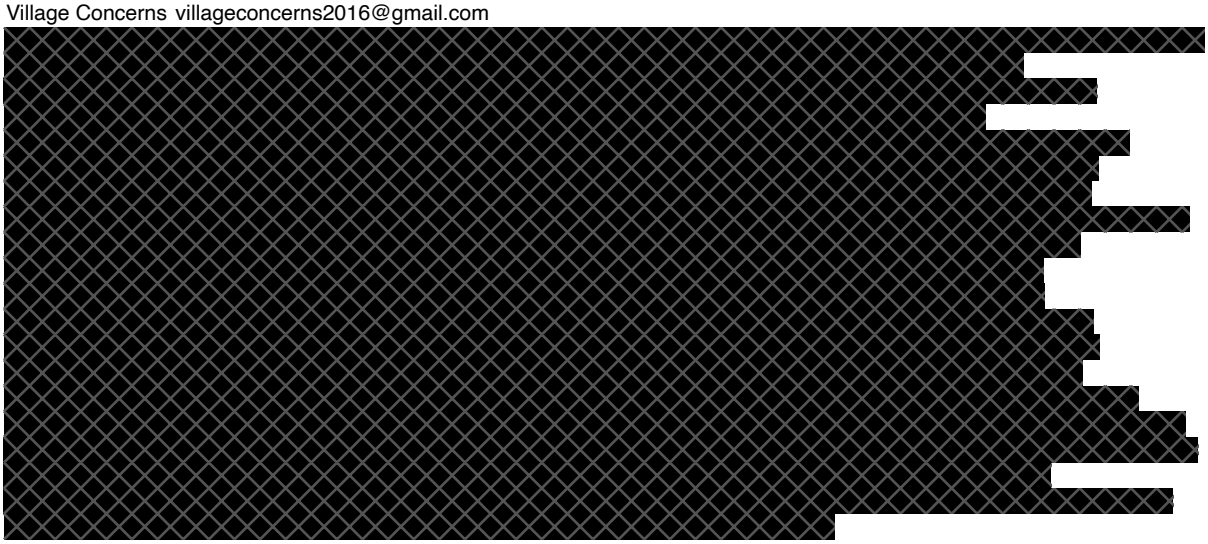
From: **Village Concerns** villageconcerns2016@gmail.com
Subject: Update 30
Date: 10 July 2017 at 12:23
To: Village Concerns villageconcerns2016@gmail.com
Bcc:



Attached is the Conservative candidate's reply to Village Concerns, regarding housing / planning - for the July 20th, District Councillor election.

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from Cllr David Watts

1/ As a District Councillor would you actively support WDC's stance in protecting the Ashdown Forest even though this decreases the number of houses which will be built?

I support the protection of the Ashdown and also the Pevensey levels. Protecting the Forest will and has reduced the numbers from the Objectively Assessed Housing number that was in the original Issues and Options document

2/ How would you assist in protecting rural communities in Wealden from over development?

Over development is a subjective statement. All the main political parties are supporting the increase in supply of housing. I do feel that we need to keep the rural feel of our villages and, if elected, will give my support to those aims.

3/ Would you and your party support strong laws protecting the environment once we come out of the EU ? (A very odd question seeing as we don't know what the laws will be?)

The Habitat Regulations(which protect the Forest) are enshrined in UK law. The Repeal Bill will transfer any additional EU regulations to the UK. There is currently no suggestion that environmental protection will be lessened by the UK Govt and indeed there is more discussion re air pollution controls although this is more vocal in urban communities.

4/ How would you and your party ensure that the infrastructure is in place before or at the same time as development takes place?

Wealden are doing all they can to ensure infrastructure comes with housing. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan is regularly discussed between East Sussex and Wealden.

5/ How would you and your party promote localism which actually works rather than a lip service process which can be easily overridden?

The Conservative Party introduced the Localism Act – Community Right to bid etc.

6/ How would you address the problem that a lack of a five year supply and no up to date local plan means that decisions are always made in favour of developers.

Wealden has a Local Plan which is being reviewed. Once the revised plan is approved then the 5 year supply will be calculated on the housing numbers in the new plan not the Objectively Assessed Housing Need. There is a “planning pause” in Wealden given the Ashdown Forest restrictions so although there is a lack of 5YLS permissions are not being given unless there are no new vehicle movements associated with the development.