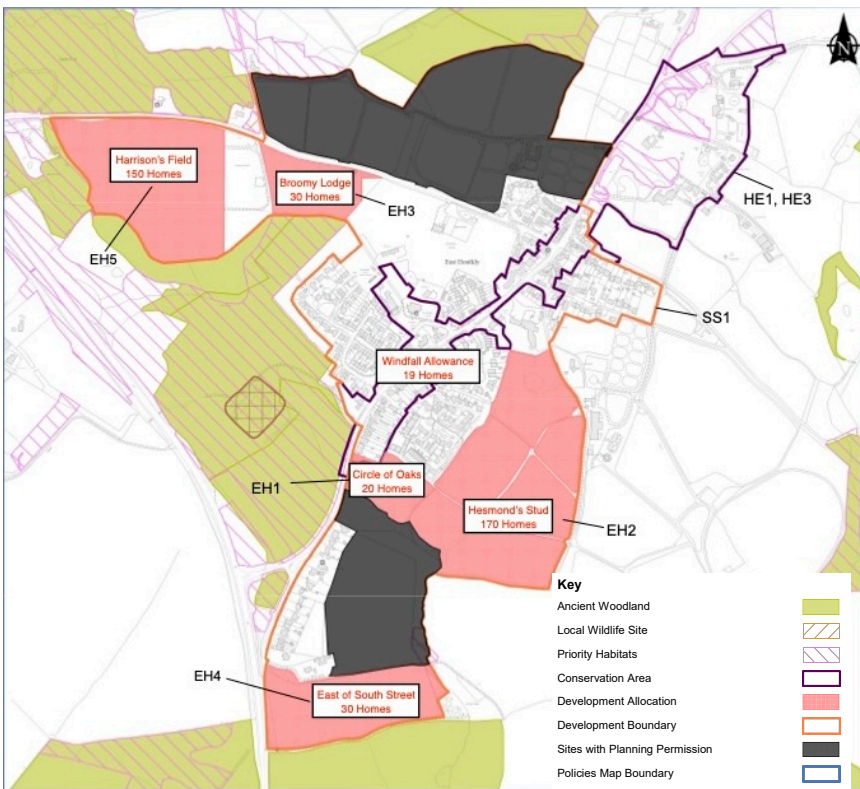
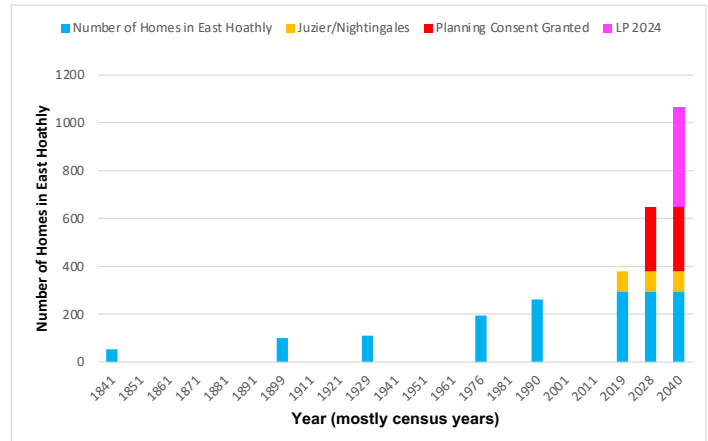


Wealden Local Plan (WLP) 2024

Planning permission for 267 new homes already , 419 additional homes in WLP

Growth from 2009 to 2040 of 308%:

686 new homes is unsustainable, it is too much, it will cause significant harm to the environment, increase pollution and traffic congestion.



Growth Options - Spatial Option F - acceptable because growth focussed on sustainable settlements. It recognises Minor Negative impact in terms of increased use of vehicles, increased greenhouse gas emissions and loss of agricultural land. Ignores increased traffic congestion, carbon cost of building new homes/roads and increased pressure on existing infrastructure for sewage, water, electricity, school places and GP appointments. It is not sustainable growth.

No Infrastructure Improvements Planned. Quadrupling East Hoathly, but Interim Infrastructure Development Plan (IIDP) proposes no definite infrastructure improvements in this Parish:

- Car dependency is a problem but the WLP has no plan to reduce it.
- No funding for “Critical” improvements to Halland and Shaw roundabouts.
- Road network around Uckfield Station already very near capacity and “will struggle to accommodate a further increase in traffic”
- “When main roads become congested, traffic migrates onto the rural lanes to bypass the congestion”. No solution, but 419 more homes for already car dependent community.
- East Hoathly has “very low accessibility to public transport”. Three “Critical” bus improvement schemes, are at risk of not being delivered and none are funded.
- Very low level of bus usage in rural areas. WLP has no strategy to improve usage. WDC do not know how many people use each bus service and can therefore not assess the ineffectiveness of their transport policy.

- School expansion scheme "Essential" but high risk it will not happen. Parker Dann Inducement of land for new school is hollow offer without funding to build the new school.
- IIDP fails to mention East Hoathly's Sports Ground, Pavilion, football pitch or rifle range. The WLP proposes no improvements to these already inadequate facilities.

Settlement Hierarchy WLP background paper defines the fate of our Parish - binary result, either sustainable or unsustainable. Once labelled sustainable - no ceiling on future development. Methodology takes no account of the existing usage of the services/facilities:

- No account of capacity of school that is already full.
- No account of school that has no space to expand.
- No account of lack of funding for School, Sewage System or Recreation.
- Assumes that building new homes in remote rural villages will increase bus usage.
- No account of gaps in mobile phone coverage (indoor reception often not possible) or almost total lack of full-fibre broadband.

Mistakes a bus service (only one bus per hour) as making a settlement sustainable - not sustainable if very low usage. New housing will generate very few additional bus trips but significant additional car trips yet the premise for granting planning approval is that the village is sustainable because it has a bus service.

History: WLP 1998	"East Hoathly was a location where limited new development was considered to be acceptable".
1998 - 2009	85 homes were added by 2009.
WLP 2013	"the absence of a sustainable transport system and recent housing developments meant that the village was not selected to grow further".
2013 - 2023	267 homes built or approved.

Since 1998 the village lost a shop, a pub, several businesses and a significant commercial site providing employment. Despite adding 352 unplanned homes onto already inadequate infrastructure and reducing sustainability, WDC now propose an additional 419 homes.

WLP provides no plans for new employment in the Parish.

The WLP only mentions Halland once and that is to categorise it as a Type 5 Neighbourhood settlement. The implication being that for Halland, there will be no growth, no improvements to infrastructure or facilities except for the increase in pollution and vehicle congestion within the settlement.

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

You have until **10th May 24** to provide your comments. WDC have provided Guidance Notes and a video to explain how to use the portal. Go to the online WLP Consultation page: <https://www.wealden.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/wealden-local-plan/>