

Public Statement from Framfield Parish Council

Framfield Parish Council wishes to express how deeply concerned and disappointed we have become with the way our role as a statutory consultee in local planning matters is currently functioning.

Despite the time, care, and local knowledge that goes into our submissions, we are finding that very few of our comments appear to be acted upon. On many applications, there is little or no debate at Wealden District Council meetings, and issues that matter greatly to our community seem to pass without meaningful consideration. This has left the Council feeling increasingly voiceless in a process where we are meant to play an important and constructive role.

We are equally concerned by the persistent lack of effective oversight of applicants undertaking works on, or affecting, the public highway. Residents experience the consequences of poorly managed construction traffic, road safety issues, and avoidable damage, yet responsibility continues to be passed back and forth between the relevant authorities. This lack of clear accountability has led to inadequate monitoring and weak enforcement, leaving our community to deal with the impacts.

We fully understand and share the frustrations of local residents who feel similarly unheard. The planning system should reflect the insight and experience of the communities it affects, and it is disappointing to see that this principle is not being upheld as it should be.

Nevertheless, we will continue to follow due process rigorously. We remain committed to representing the interests of Framfield parish, submitting detailed and evidence-based responses, and advocating for responsible, transparent, and community-focused planning decisions.

We will also continue to push for better engagement from Wealden District Council, and for planning decisions that properly reflect the views and needs of our residents.

Framfield Council