

DM/26/1080 St Stephen's Church

The Parish Council have reviewed the response dated 26 June 2026 from Shrimplin to the concerns that have been raised on the proposed Housing Mix and wish to make the following comments.

The Housing Mix referred to in the Strategic Housing Market Assessment update is the evidence which underpins MSDC's proposed new District Plan and is based on the assessed need on a district wide basis. It is not the evidence that supports the local need for the parish of Horsted Keynes. The Neighbourhood Plan Policy is the most up-to-date policy on Housing Mix applicable to the site, for which this application should be assessed against.

Whilst it is accepted that the Housing Needs Survey conducted in the parish was essentially to assess the need for affordable housing, the results of this are still relevant and were part of the evidence that the Inspector considered when he examined the plan and found the current policy to be sound.

Whilst the adjacent site is due to provide a number of smaller units it is most regrettable that the actual number to be delivered will be 30% less than the number that would have been required had that application been assessed in accordance with the current Neighbourhood Plan policy, so this actually does very little to alleviate the imbalance in the existing housing stock within the village.

Whilst it is acknowledged that the Housing Mix policy in the Neighbourhood Plan is not an absolute requirement, it is nonetheless the mix that the developer should be aiming to provide and no evidence has so far been provided by the developer to suggest that it is not practical or commercially viable to comply with that mix.