

Caroline Grist

From: planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk
Sent: 09 June 2026 14:08
To: Caroline Grist
Subject: Mid Sussex DC - Online Register - Comments for Planning Application DM/26/1315

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

Planning Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 09/06/2026 2:08 PM.

Application Summary

Address:	Land West Of Gatesmead Wickham Way Haywards Heath West Sussex
Proposal:	Proposed 49 new homes together with open space and associated infrastructure.
Case Officer:	Caroline Grist

[Click for further information](#)

Customer Details

Address:	3 Gatesmead Haywards Heath West Sussex
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Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Neighbour or general public
Stance:	Customer objects to the Planning Application
Reasons for comment:	
Comments:	Dear Sir/Madam, I am writing to formally log my strong objection to the proposed residential development at Wickham Fields. As a local resident who uses this specific site daily with my young baby and family dog, I have direct, everyday experience of the area. This development will cause significant, lasting harm to our local infrastructure, highway safety, and community well-being. I urge the planning committee to refuse this application based on the following material planning considerations: 1. Loss of vital community green space and amenity value: Wickham Fields serves as an indispensable natural asset and community hub for a wide cross-section of residents. It is heavily used daily by dog walkers, parents with young children, and local teenagers seeking safe outdoor recreation. Eradicating this space contradicts planning policies aimed at promoting public health, mental well-being, and safe community integration.

2. Severe ecological impact and loss of biodiversity:

The fields are an established, thriving nature spot and home to diverse local wildlife. A formal independent ecological assessment must be prioritized before any decisions are made. The destruction of this greenfield site will deplete local habitats, running counter to national requirements for achieving a mandatory biodiversity net gain.

3. Negative highways impact and infrastructure deterioration:

Birchen Lane access: The proposed access road via Birchen Lane is unsuitable for an influx of heavy construction traffic and subsequent residential vehicles. Birchen Lane is already degraded and riddled with potholes.

Gatesmead traffic: Gatesmead is already struggling to cope with existing traffic volumes. The current vehicle load regularly compromises the road surface, creating persistent potholes that the local council lacks the resources to adequately maintain. As soon as they are patched, a new one starts forming. Adding more vehicle movements will cause further failure.

4. Critical strain on local education and healthcare capacity:

Our local primary schools and General Practitioner (GP) surgeries are already documented as operating at maximum capacity. Adding further residential units without a substantial, pre-funded, and completed expansion of these medical and educational facilities will compromise care and education standards for existing residents.

5. Infrastructure knock-on effects for Lindfield village:

The impact of this development will bleed into neighbouring Lindfield Village, which is already vulnerable to traffic congestion. Furthermore, vital early-years infrastructure (specifically local nursery baby rooms, toddler activities, and baby groups) is already oversubscribed. Young families in this community are already struggling to secure childcare and developmental groups; this development will push these services past their limit.

For the reasons outlined above-specifically the highway safety risks, the erasure of an invaluable community nature asset, and the unsustainable pressure on oversubscribed infrastructure-this proposal represents unsustainable development.

I respectfully request that the Planning Committee refuses this application. I would also request to be formally notified of the date of the committee meeting where this application will be debated, as well as the final decision notice.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted Signature]

Kind regards