

From: planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk <planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 09 April 2026 09:32:14 UTC+01:00
To: "Susan Dubberley" <susan.dubberley@midsussex.gov.uk>
Subject: Mid Sussex DC - Online Register - Comments for Planning Application
DM/26/0676

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

Comments were submitted at 09/04/2026 9:32 AM.

Application Summary

Address:	West Hoathly Brickworks Hamsey Road Sharpthorne East Grinstead West Sussex RH19 4PB
Proposal:	Variation of condition no 31 relating to planning application DM/23/0827 - to allow amendments to the Energy and Sustainability Statement.
Case Officer:	Susan Dubberley

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Customer Details

Address: 25 Hamsey Road Sharpthorne

Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Neighbour or general public
Stance:	Customer objects to the Planning Application
Reasons for comment:	
Comments:	I am writing to formally object to the proposed removal of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels from the new-build homes in Sharpthorne. The decision to omit solar panels directly contradicts both national and local planning policy objectives. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires developments to support the transition to a low-carbon future and to incorporate renewable and

low-carbon energy sources wherever possible. Likewise, Mid Sussex District Council's sustainability policies emphasise energy efficiency, carbon reduction, and the integration of renewable technologies in new housing.

In addition to these policy conflicts, Sharpthorne's local energy infrastructure makes the removal of PV particularly inappropriate. Our village is served by overhead power lines, and residents experience regular power cuts and supply instability. The existing grid is already under strain. Removing solar panels from the development would increase the electrical demand placed on this fragile network, worsening the pressure on an already stretched system.

Solar PV would help reduce peak load, improve local energy resilience, and lessen reliance on the overhead network during periods of high demand. Omitting it removes a valuable source of decentralised generation that would otherwise support both the new homes and the wider village.

More broadly, removing solar panels would:

- Increase long-term energy costs for future residents at a time when energy affordability is a major national concern
- Reduce the environmental performance of the development, undermining the district's climate commitments
- Miss a critical opportunity to future-proof housing stock, forcing homeowners to retrofit at far greater cost later
- Contradict the expectations set during consultation, where sustainability was presented as a core feature of the scheme

Solar PV is one of the most cost-effective and unobtrusive renewable technologies available. Installing panels at the construction stage is significantly cheaper and more efficient than retrofitting, and it ensures the homes meet modern standards of environmental responsibility and energy resilience.

Sharpthorne residents expect new developments to contribute positively to the village's future. Removing solar panels is a step backwards and offers no tangible benefit to the community, the environment, or future homeowners.

I therefore urge the planning authority to reject the amendment and require the developer to retain solar PV as originally proposed.

Kind regards