

From: planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk <planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 26 April 2026 20:02:24 UTC+01:00
To: "Hamish Evans" <hamish.evans@midsussex.gov.uk>
Subject: Mid Sussex DC - Online Register - Comments for Planning Application
DM/26/0540

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

Comments were submitted at 26/04/2026 8:02 PM.

Application Summary

Address:	5 Orchard Close Scaynes Hill Haywards Heath West Sussex RH17 7PQ
Proposal:	Change of Use from dwellinghouse (Use Class C3) to children's residential care home (Use Class C2) for up to (2/3) children. No external alterations proposed. (additional information received 30.03.2026 and 07.04.2026)
Case Officer:	Hamish Evans

[Click for further information](#)

Customer Details

Address: 20 Orchard Close Scaynes Hill Haywards Heath

Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Neighbour or general public
Stance:	Customer objects to the Planning Application
Reasons for comment:	
Comments:	Formal Objection to Planning Application When I was first made aware of this planning application, no supporting documentation was available. On that basis, I assumed the proposal related to supported accommodation for 16-17 year-old care leavers, aimed at enabling semi-independent living and the development of life skills prior to leaving the care system.

Having now reviewed the submitted supporting documentation, I am extremely concerned by the proposal as described. The use of this property as a children's home for young people aged between 8 and 18 years is wholly inappropriate for its location within a quiet residential cul-de-sac in a small village.

Residents who have raised children in this village will attest that the limited local amenities require a high level of parental commitment to meet children's everyday needs. This context makes the site particularly unsuitable for an institutional care setting catering for a wide age range of vulnerable young people. The applicant's Planning Statement significantly underplays the level of activity associated with the proposed use. There will inevitably be frequent vehicle movements arising from staff shift changes, school transport, regulatory inspections, social worker visits, and health appointments. The assertion that these movements would be comparable to those of a typical family household is unrealistic and misleading. Such movements would be markedly higher in frequency and intensity than those associated with a single private dwelling.

Parking within Orchard Close is already limited, with many residents reliant on on-street parking, which at times creates hazards. Although the applicant claims that the property provides off-street parking for six vehicles, this would only be achievable if vehicles were very small and parked tightly in two rows, effectively blocking one another in. This arrangement would inevitably result in additional vehicle movements within the cul-de-sac as blocked vehicles are required to move, further exacerbating congestion and disturbance.

The suggestion that additional parking is available elsewhere in the village is also inappropriate. The car park referred to serves the Recreation Ground and the Scaynes Hill Millennium Village Centre and is not intended for permanent or regular staff parking associated with a residential institution.

The continual presence of staff arriving and departing in shifts would give the property a commercial or institutional character, entirely out of keeping with the surrounding residential environment. Taken together, the scale of activity, traffic movements, and staffing arrangements would result in a clear intensification of use that is not comparable to a typical family home.

As a regulated institutional use, the proposal would fundamentally alter the character and appearance of the area, to the detriment of the amenity of neighbouring residents.

For the reasons set out above, the application represents an inappropriate form of development in this location and should therefore be refused.

Kind regards