

From: planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk <planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 05 June 2026 07:36:50 UTC+01:00
To: "Caroline Grist" <caroline.grist@midsussex.gov.uk>
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 05/06/2026 7:36 AM.

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:	135 The Welkin Lindfield
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Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Neighbour or general public
Stance:	Customer objects to the Planning Application
Reasons for comment:	
Comments:	I strongly object to planning application DM/26/1315 for the proposed development of 49 homes on Wickham Fields, Haywards Heath. Wickham Fields represents one of the last remaining areas of open countryside and green space in this part of Haywards Heath. Once lost, this land can never be replaced. The field provides an important habitat for wildlife, a natural green buffer between urban development and the countryside, and a valuable recreational

space used by local residents for walking, exercise and wellbeing. Reports of protected species and birds of prey on and around the site further strengthen the need for extreme caution before any development is permitted.

Haywards Heath has already experienced significant housing growth over recent years. However, the supporting infrastructure has not kept pace with this expansion. Local roads are already heavily congested, particularly during peak commuting and school-run periods. Access via Gatesmead and surrounding roads is likely to increase traffic pressures, reduce road safety and worsen air quality for existing residents. Air pollution is already a growing concern across Sussex, and further traffic generation should not be encouraged.

The impact on local public services must also be considered. Princess Royal Hospital is already under considerable pressure, GP surgeries struggle to secure appointments, and many local schools have expanded to four or even five forms of entry, with class sizes often exceeding thirty pupils. Additional housing without significant investment in healthcare, education and transport infrastructure will place further strain on services that are already operating at or beyond capacity.

The loss of agricultural land should also be carefully considered. At a time when there is increasing national discussion about food security, sustainability and supporting British farming, it is difficult to justify the permanent loss of productive greenfield land. We should be protecting and supporting farming wherever possible rather than steadily eroding the countryside around our towns.

I am also concerned about the cumulative impact of ongoing and proposed developments around Haywards Heath. The character of the town is changing rapidly, with green spaces disappearing and the distinction between town and countryside becoming increasingly blurred. Wickham Fields helps preserve the rural setting and character that makes this area attractive to residents and visitors alike.

The site was previously assessed during the District Plan process and was not allocated for housing development. Nothing fundamental has changed about the landscape, environmental value or infrastructure constraints of the site since that decision was made.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that Mid Sussex District Council refuses planning application DM/26/1315 and protects Wickham Fields for future generations. The long-term environmental, social and infrastructure costs of this development far outweigh any short-term benefit gained from building 49 additional houses on this site.

I further request that, should the application proceed, it is determined by the Planning Committee rather than under delegated powers due to the significant local concern, environmental impact, heritage considerations and unresolved issues surrounding the site.

Kind regards