

From: planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk <planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 03 June 2026 14:21:37 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 03/06/2026 2:21 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:	229 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 am writing to formally object to planning application DM/26/1315 - the proposed development of 49 dwellings on land west of Gatesmead, Haywards Heath. As a resident of Lindfield, I know this area well. The fields off Old Wickham Lane are genuinely valued open land used by communities across the surrounding villages. On heritage, Wickham Farmhouse and Sunte House are both

Grade II* listed buildings of exceptional historic interest. Crest Nicholson's own consultants have acknowledged that development here may affect the significance of these assets. The NPPF requires great weight to be given to their conservation and clear justification for any harm. That justification has not been provided.

On access, routing all traffic for 49 new homes through Gatesmead - a quiet residential street - raises obvious concerns around junction safety, school run congestion and construction traffic that the application does not adequately address.

On the right of way, a Definitive Map Modification Order application affecting this site was lodged by Haywards Heath Town Council and Lindfield Rural Parish Council with West Sussex County Council in November 2021 and remains undetermined more than four years later. The legal status of the alleged right of way over or adjacent to this site is unresolved. MSDC should not determine an application that may permanently prejudice that route before WSCC has concluded its own process.

On ecology, I am a keen birdwatcher and it is genuinely sad to consider the impact this development would have on the bird life in and around these fields - as well as other wildlife including protected species recorded on site. Around 11 acres of open grassland would be permanently lost, and independent ecological survey work should be required before any determination.

On infrastructure, I speak from direct experience: as a family we found it extremely difficult to secure school places for our daughters locally - every school in the area was effectively full. Adding 49 homes without a proper cumulative assessment of the impact on schools, GPs and roads - alongside several other candidate housing sites nearby - is not acceptable.

I ask that this application be refused. If it is to be determined, I request it be referred to the Planning Committee rather than decided under delegated powers.

I formally object to DM/26/1315.

Kind regards