

Mid Sussex District Council
Planning – FAO Stefan Galyas
Oaklands
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
RH16 1SS

11th October 2025

Dear Mr. Galyas,

Reinstatement of observatory tower, proposed construction of orangery and associated works, including removal of hanging tiles.

Stonehurst, Selsfield Road, Ardingly, Haywards Heath, West Sussex. RH17 6TN

Planning ref: DM/25/2231

I refer to the above planning application, which is made on behalf of Mr. Laurence Tonna (the applicant), by Whaleback Ltd (the agent).

My name is [REDACTED] of Barnfield Place, Balcombe Lane, Ardingly, RH17 6UW, a resident of Ardingly for over 25 years with other family members who also live and work in the Village. I wish to object in the strongest possible terms with relation to the above proposal.

I object for the following reason: -

- The proposed tower would form a tall and significantly visible development at the most dangerous section of the main road (Selsfield Road). Driving concentration is vital at that part of the road due to the two entry points to Wakehurst Place, one being its main gate and a very busy thoroughfare which is directly opposite the site of the proposed tower.
- The proposed Tower, by reason of its scale, form, height and position would have a significant 'eye catching' effect on drivers at a point in the road where there are also a number of advertising signs indicating entry to the Wakehurst car park and events.
- The very dangerous road speeds which are a well-known local factor for that part of the road already require an increased level of concentration. Any additional significant interference to concentration would be detrimental and lead to more accidents.

I understand that the Planning application indicates that the new tower will stand at approximately 23.3m above the terrace level, c.11m above the existing tower base and will necessitate the partial demolition of the existing tower base at the point it was previously capped. The tower will have a clay hanging tiles, matching tiled roofs and timber framed fenestration, balustrades and exposed timber framing. This all indicates that the Tower is intended to be "Eye Catching" and that is, in my view, the significance of the danger to the concentration of driving along that stretch of road.

If you feel that there is more information or opinion which would be helpful in your deliberations, I would be very happy to help.

With kindest regards,

[REDACTED]