

**From:** planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk <planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 06 November 2025 19:55:46 UTC+00:00  
**To:** "Caroline Grist" <caroline.grist@midsussex.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Mid Sussex DC - Online Register - Comments for Planning Application  
DM/25/2550

## Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

Comments were submitted at 06/11/2025 7:55 PM.

### Application Summary

**Address:** Hillsborough House 118 High Street Hurstpierpoint West Sussex

**Proposal:** Change of Use from 6 no self contained flats, 4x1bed, 2x 2 bed (Class C3) to Children's Residential Home (Class C2) for a maximum of seven children between the ages of 8 and 18, with up to 5 carers working during the day and up to 3 carers at night.

**Case Officer:** Caroline Grist

[Click for further information](#)

### Customer Details

**Address:** 8 Trumpkins Hurstpierpoint

### Comments Details

**Commenter Type:** Neighbour or general public

**Stance:** Customer made comments in support of the Planning Application

**Reasons for comment:**

**Comments:** I am writing to support the application to change the use of Hillsborough House, 118 High Street, Hurstpierpoint, from six self-contained flats (four 1-bed and two 2-bed) to a C2 children's residential home accommodating up to seven children aged 8-18, with staffing of up to five carers during the day and up to three at night. I understand that no external alterations are proposed and only minor internal changes are required. This ensures that the heritage character and external appearance of the building remain

fully preserved, maintaining the integrity of the Conservation Area and High Street setting.

#### Previous and current use, and parking/traffic impacts

This building previously operated as an office with more than 15 staff, frequent meetings, and a regular flow of visitors, generating significant vehicle movements and parking demand. The current layout is six flats with eight bedrooms, served by six on-site parking spaces, with additional capacity for visitors on the road if needed. There is a designated private car park at the rear, so this scheme will not draw on High Street parking.

Compared with the former office use, the proposed children's home is likely to reduce overall trips and parking pressure, particularly at commuter peak times. Furthermore, when compared to the current flats, traffic levels would also be lower: most children will not be driving, and staff shifts can be staggered. Unless the household were unusually comprised of older teenagers all simultaneously learning to drive, the vehicle movements would be considerably fewer than those generated by six independent adult households.

#### Suitability of a children's home in this location

Being close to shops, services, schools, open recreation space, health facilities and public transport supports children's integration into village life. Staff can also walk or cycle to work. This aligns with sustainable development principles and with modern care standards, which advocate for small, homely, community-integrated environments rather than isolated institutional settings. The proposal intends to provide a stable, nurturing, family-style atmosphere, which is exactly the model supported by children's social care guidance nationally.

#### Response to the Hurst Society comments

I am concerned by the Hurst Society's statement that the proposal "may not provide a quiet, stable, family home." This claim is unsubstantiated and risks implying that family homes are inappropriate near the High Street. Many families already live within this immediate area and have done so for generations, alongside local restaurants, cafés and pubs. If the implication is that families should not live near the village centre, it is reasonable to ask whether the Society intends to object to all future homes in this part of the village, or seek restrictions on existing businesses. This position would be inconsistent with the character of Hurstpierpoint, which has always been a mixed, living, community-centred High Street.

#### Deliveries and servicing

Concerns regarding delivery vehicles are also overstated. This section of road is already used safely by delivery drivers serving local businesses. A children's home would receive standard

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household-type deliveries, and certainly less vehicle movement than the former office use.

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Kind regards