

From: planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk <planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 09 June 2026 20:33:11 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 09/06/2026 8:33 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:	89 Heeley Road Birmingham
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Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Neighbour or general public
Stance:	Customer objects to the Planning Application
Reasons for comment:	
Comments:	**FORMAL OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT** I wish to register my strongest possible objection to this proposed development. I spent my childhood growing up on Wickham Way. This application represents yet another example of the relentless destruction of the green spaces that make Haywards Heath a desirable place to live. These fields are not "empty land" waiting to

be exploited; they are a vital green space which offer environmental, ecological, and mental health benefits to local residents. Once they are built on, they will be lost forever. There being even a suggestion of this being built on makes me sick to my stomach.

Haywards Heath has already suffered years of overdevelopment and the gradual erosion of its natural environment. This town I used to live in is becoming increasingly grey, urbanised, and disconnected from nature. The browning and greying of our landscape is quite frankly disgusting, and yet developers continue to target the few remaining green spaces as if they have no value beyond the profit that can be extracted from them.

This is one of the last remaining pockets of open countryside in the area. It provides a visual break from the ever-expanding housing estates, roads, and infrastructure. Residents should not have to watch every remaining green field disappear simply because developers see an opportunity to maximise returns.

Green spaces are not a luxury; they are essential. People need access to nature for exercise, relaxation, and wellbeing. They also need it for air quality (I would know as a respiratory physiologist who had to move away from lovely Wickham Way for work). Countless studies have demonstrated the positive effects that natural environments have on reducing stress, anxiety, depression, and social isolation. At a time when mental health is rightly recognised as a major public concern, it is deeply disappointing that decision-makers and MPs continue to allow irreplaceable green spaces to be sacrificed. Every field lost is another blow to the quality of life of existing residents. Its so depressing.

The environmental impacts are SO alarming. These fields provide habitat for wildlife, support biodiversity, absorb carbon, improve air quality, and help mitigate flooding. Covering them with concrete, roads, and buildings will only increase pollution, reduce biodiversity, and further contribute to the environmental decline that communities across the country are already experiencing. We cannot cope.

What is particularly frustrating is the apparent willingness to prioritise developer interests over the long-term wellbeing of residents and the environment. Time and again, communities are told that the loss of green space is a necessary price for progress. Yet the benefits seem to flow overwhelmingly to developers, while local people are left with increased traffic, reduced access to nature, greater pressure on services, worsening air quality, and the permanent loss of cherished landscapes. I see that it says 'associated infrastructure' will be built alongside. What a joke. I have seen time and time again these promises which either never come through, or are quite frankly, not suit for purpose. No one

wants this. No one.

I am tired of seeing nature treated as an obstacle to be removed whenever it stands in the way of commercial interests. We are living through a biodiversity crisis and a CLIMATE CRISIS, yet we continue to bulldoze fields, fragment habitats, and erode the natural world as though these losses carry no consequence. They do.

No amount of token landscaping, decorative planting, or so-called "green infrastructure" can ever replace a genuine, established green space. We have heard these promises before. In Wivelsfield Green, residents were assured that meaningful green spaces would be preserved as part of development plans. The reality has been completely different. What was delivered bears little resemblance to the natural open space that was lost. Instead, residents have been left with a tiny, uninspiring play area no larger than a roundabout and a small patch of grass that serves as a poor substitute for the fields and countryside that once existed there. Moreover, the residents and community would much rather have open green NATURAL spaces over some awful, plastic, tarmac space or a patch of manufactured grass.

This experience demonstrates exactly why such promises should be treated with major scepticism. Once developers have secured planning permission and the land has been built over, the rich natural environment that existed before is lost permanently. You cannot recreate mature habitats, open countryside, thriving wildlife, or the sense of space and connection to nature with a few planted shrubs and a token area of grass.

We deserve better. Future generations deserve better than a landscape shaped solely by development and short-term profit. They deserve access to nature, clean air, wildlife, and open spaces. This proposal moves us in the opposite direction.

I therefore urge the council in the strongest possible terms to reject this application and protect one of the few remaining green spaces left in Haywards Heath before yet another piece of our natural environment is lost forever. But quite frankly, have lost all hope in the council and decision makers to make the decision representative of residents and the community this will directly affect. This proposal does not represent us.

Kind regards