

Steven King

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 February 2026 17:22
To: Steven King
Subject: Objection to the Proposed Development at Sugworth Farm. Planning Reference DM/25/3129

[REDACTED]

Dear Mr King.

We are writing to object to the proposed development at Sugworth Farm, north of Haywards Heath near to Borde Hill. Planning Reference DM/25/3129

There are several sound technical reasons for this objection which, we believe, have already been clearly expressed by other writers and which we would endorse. We would summarise some of these, though not necessarily all, as follows:

Detrimental to the Environment: The proposed development is on land which is an Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) and is adjacent to an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The proposed development would damage the natural beauty of the area, damage nature generally and the biodiversity of the site.

Strain on Local Infrastructure: The proposed development is not actually within the boundaries of Haywards Heath but would nevertheless, be very heavily dependent on it and would have considerable detrimental effect on the town including, among other things, exacerbating already strained and overburdened infrastructure including, but not limited to; roads, parking, railways, drainage, schools (including primary, secondary and sixth form facilities), medical and health Centres and GP practices, emergency services (including fire brigade, police and ambulance), supermarkets and general amenities.

The traffic flows not only south through Haywards Heath itself but also to the north and west through the Balcombe Road, Borde Hill Lane and Hanlye Lane via Cuckfield would increase dramatically which would require significant upgrades to all those roads.

Proximity to Services: We understand that there are existing rules in place which govern the proximity, distance and accessibility of local services and amenities, which the proposed development would be in breach of.

Flood Risk: There is very great and real concern as to the effect this development (as with all similar developments) has on the ability of the landscape to cope naturally with rainfall and flood water. With climate change already causing the weather to be more extreme and less predictable than before, this concern becomes ever more real and serious. For example, the Balcombe Road below the railway bridge (just south of the Balcombe viaduct) already floods in times of heavy rain and is at times barely passable. In addition, since the construction of the Penland Fram estate, Scrase Stream has been known to overflow and has, as we understand it, caused flooding to the properties at the lowest point of Penland Road, adjacent to the stream.

Water Supply: As we have seen last year, with the very dry spring and summer, in times of drought the water supply is already under strain and any further development with its attendant rise in population, will further increase the burden on water supplies.

Population Increase: Each new development does little for the existing population, including young and working aged people and their families, but simply imports more people from outside, into to high-end properties increasing the population overall without adequately addressing the requirements of those already here.

Thank you for taking our concerns into consideration.

Kind regards,

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West Sussex
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