

From: planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk <planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 12 June 2026 09:58:15 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 12/06/2026 9:58 AM.

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:	9 Old Wickham Lane Haywards Heath
----------	-----------------------------------

Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Neighbour or general public
Stance:	Customer objects to the Planning Application
Reasons for comment:	
Comments:	I am writing to object to planning application DM/26/1315 for the proposed development at Wickham Fields, Haywards Heath. My family and I have lived on Old Wickham Lane since 1983 and have regularly enjoyed Wickham Fields, the Bluebell Woods and the woodland on the opposite side of the fields. For more than forty years, local residents have treated this area as accessible countryside and have used the surrounding paths for recreation and access to nature. I understand that Definitive Map

Modification Order (DMMO) 3/22, concerning a public right of way affecting this site, has remained undetermined since November 2021. It seems wrong that this planning application could be approved before West Sussex County Council has completed its own legal process and established the status of the route. If a right of way is later confirmed after houses have been built, the consequences for residents and future occupants could be significant. The uncertainty surrounding DMMO 3/22 should be resolved before any planning decision is made.

I am also deeply concerned about the loss of open green space and biodiversity. My family and I use this area two or three times each week for walking and enjoying the countryside close to our home. Over the years, I have personally seen adders in the woods, as well as bluebells and wild orchids that contribute to the special character of the site. The surrounding area also supports a wide variety of wildlife. The loss of approximately 11 acres of open grassland would have a substantial impact on local biodiversity and on residents' access to nature. If this land is developed, we would have to travel by car to reach comparable countryside, which is contrary to the principles of sustainable living and would reduce opportunities for local people to enjoy nature within walking distance of their homes.

The proposed development would also harm the setting of important heritage assets. The open countryside surrounding Wickham Farmhouse and Sunte House contributes significantly to the historic character of the area and helps these Grade II* listed buildings retain their connection to the landscape in which they were built. When travelling through this part of Haywards Heath, the remaining open fields provide an important sense of place and historic continuity. I do not believe that the construction of 49 homes on this site provides sufficient public benefit to outweigh the harm caused to the setting and significance of two Grade II* listed buildings, particularly when alternative sites may be available for development.

I am further concerned that local infrastructure is already under considerable pressure. My experience of local GP services has been poor due to long waiting times. I was previously registered at Newtons Practice and eventually changed to a practice in Lindfield, only to encounter similar difficulties there. This suggests that healthcare services in the area are already struggling to meet demand. The application does not provide sufficient reassurance that the additional demand generated by 49 new homes can be accommodated without further reducing service levels for existing residents.

Finally, I am concerned about drainage and flooding issues. Old Wickham Lane experiences significant flooding during periods of heavy rain, despite resurfacing works carried out several years ago. During the winter months this can occur every few weeks,

making the road difficult to use and raising concerns about the capacity of local drainage infrastructure. The application does not appear to demonstrate convincingly that the development can be accommodated without increasing flood risk or placing further pressure on already strained drainage systems.

For these reasons, I object to planning application DM/26/1315 and respectfully request that it be refused. If the application is to be determined, I ask that it be considered by the Planning Committee rather than under delegated powers, given the significance of the site, the unresolved legal status of DMMO 3/22 and the impact on two Grade II* listed buildings.

Kind regards