

From: planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk
Sent: 14 June 2026 09:03
To: Caroline Grist
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 14/06/2026 9:03 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:	27 Gatesmead Haywards Heath
----------	-----------------------------

Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Neighbour or general public
Stance:	Customer objects to the Planning Application

Reasons for comment:

Comments: Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Planning Application DM/26/1315

I wish to formally object to planning application DM/26/1315.

My objection is based on concerns regarding highway safety, the suitability of the proposed access arrangements, pressure on local infrastructure, the loss of an important community green space, and the potential impact on biodiversity.

Loss of a valued green space
I have always lived locally and have used Wickham Fields regularly for in excess of twenty years. The fields provide an important area of informal recreation and open space for local residents that simply does not exist elsewhere in this part of Lindfield. Over many years I have seen people of all ages use the fields for walking, exercising, enjoying nature and allowing

children to play. The long-standing and consistent use of this land by the local community demonstrates the significant value it holds as an accessible green space. If required, I would encourage the Council to consider photographic evidence and testimony from local residents demonstrating the extent and duration of this community use.

Unsuitable access arrangements

I have serious concerns regarding the proposal to access a further forty-nine dwellings via Gatesmead and Birchen Lane.

Gatesmead was, until 2019, a quiet cul-de-sac. The construction of approximately forty houses fundamentally changed the character of the road. During that development, residents experienced significant disruption, including speeding construction traffic, antisocial behaviour from some drivers, and damage to roads, pavements and trees. Much of this damage has still not been adequately remedied.

Over the past decade, the make-up of the road has changed considerably. There has been a noticeable increase in the number of young families living in the area, with children frequently playing in front gardens and using the pavements. In my view, Gatesmead is simply not a safe or appropriate route for either the construction traffic associated with this development or the long-term traffic generated by a further forty-nine family homes.

The proposed access is also illogical. The land itself is accessed from Wickham Lane. It therefore seems entirely reasonable that any vehicular access associated with development of the site should also be taken from Wickham Lane rather than routing traffic through an established residential estate that was never designed to accommodate it.

Highway capacity and congestion

Birchen Lane already experiences significant traffic pressures. It can take a considerable amount of time to exit Birchen Lane onto Portsmouth Lane due to the volume of traffic using the junction. Adding traffic generated by forty-nine additional households, particularly family homes, will inevitably exacerbate existing congestion.

The approach road through Birchen Lane also suffers from some of the worst potholes in the district. Existing infrastructure is already under strain and residents have experienced ongoing difficulties with maintenance. It is unclear how the local highway network will safely and effectively accommodate the additional vehicle movements generated by this proposal.

The development would effectively place a substantial number of additional homes at the end of a winding residential estate with limited options for access and egress. This raises serious concerns regarding day-to-day congestion and highway resilience.

Impact on schools and local services

The local primary schools are already operating at capacity. Lindfield Primary School, in particular, is full to bursting. Given that these are predominantly family homes, it is reasonable to ask where the children arising from this development are expected to be educated.

Should children be allocated places at schools such as Harlands, many parents are likely to drive, requiring them to travel around an already congested route to effectively complete a near full circle before reaching the school. This would add further pressure to local roads at peak times, increasing congestion and raising concerns about road safety around school drop-off and collection periods.

The three local primary schools are largely situated on residential roads or quiet country lanes. The cumulative impact of dozens of additional school journeys has not, in my view, been adequately addressed.

Impact on biodiversity

Wickham Fields support a range of wildlife and form part of an increasingly fragmented network of local habitats. Of particular concern is the presence of black redstarts, a species with approximately one hundred breeding pairs remaining in the United Kingdom. The loss of this green space risks causing irreversible harm to local biodiversity.

I would ask that the Council carefully scrutinise any ecological assessments submitted in

support of the application and ensure that the true environmental value of this site is fully recognised before any decision is made.

Conclusion

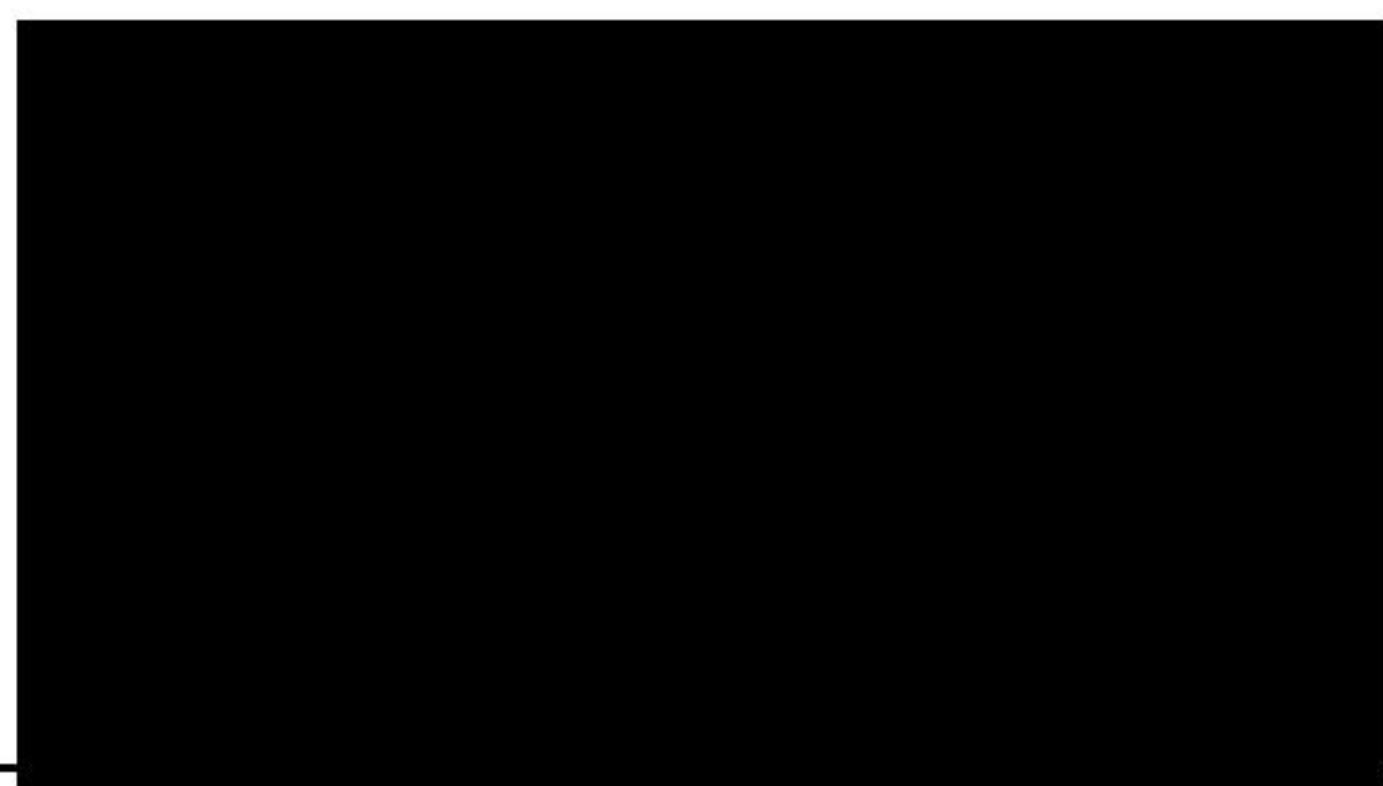
The proposed development represents the cumulative addition of forty-nine further homes to an area where the existing infrastructure, road network and local services are already under considerable pressure.

For the reasons set out above, namely:

- the loss of a valued and well-used community green space;
- unsuitable and unsafe access arrangements through Gatesmead and Birchen Lane;
- existing congestion and inadequate highway infrastructure;
- additional pressure on already oversubscribed local schools; and
- the potential adverse impact on biodiversity and protected species,

I respectfully request that Mid Sussex District Council refuse planning application DM/26/1315.

Yours faithfully,

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of the sender.

Kind regards