

Sarah Valentine

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 September 2026 12:09
To: planninginfo; Susan Dubberley
Subject: Objection to planning application DM/26/2178

[REDACTED]

Dear Ms Dubberley,

I am writing as a neighbour regarding planning application DM/26/2178 for the proposed six houses on College Lane. Given the significant wider implications of this proposal, I am requesting that this application be formally called in for determination by the Planning Committee, rather than being decided under delegated powers, and that it ultimately be refused.

[REDACTED]

College Lane is narrow, with sharp bends, blind spots, and no continuous pavement. It is already dangerous for pedestrians and difficult for traffic. More houses mean more cars and greater pressure on an already completely unsuitable road. This is not a theoretical concern—there are already seven houses currently being built immediately nearby, which already compromises road safety.

These six houses cannot be considered in isolation. The Council is planning for major growth around Hurstpierpoint and Burgess Hill, including the proposed 1,350-home development west of Burgess Hill/North of Hurstpierpoint, as well as further proposed housing allocations around College Lane and Malthouse Lane. The cumulative impact on roads, drainage, water, sewage, schools, healthcare, and the character of the village is a major public interest matter that demands full committee scrutiny.

There is also a clear and severe risk of settlement coalescence. Each individual development may be described by applicants as small, but together they are steadily eating into the vital open land between Hurstpierpoint and Hurstpierpoint College. Once this green gap is built on, it is gone forever. There is already a significant planning history on College Lane, including the previous 81-home proposal (13/01250/FUL) which was refused following appeal precisely to protect this open gap and prevent coalescence. These remain critical policy issues that should be debated transparently by elected members.

The financial benefit of developing this land is entirely private, while the severe consequences—more traffic, pressure on infrastructure, loss of countryside, and the degradation of community character—are borne by the public. This is not simply a matter of six houses; it is a significant step in the gradual loss of the open land and character of Hurstpierpoint.

Because of these complex, cumulative impacts and the clear public concern surrounding the preservation of our village boundaries, I urge you to ensure this application is called in to the Planning Committee for full democratic review, and that planning permission is refused.

Yours sincerely,

