

From: planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk <planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 09 June 2025 15:58:08 UTC+01:00
To: "Joanne Fisher" <joanne.fisher@midsussex.gov.uk>
Subject: Mid Sussex DC - Online Register - Comments for Planning Application
DM/25/1129

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

Planning Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 09/06/2025 3:58 PM.

Application Summary

Address: Land At Foxhole Farm Foxhole Lane Bolney West Sussex

Proposal: Outline application (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale reserved), for the erection of up to 200 residential dwellings, including affordable housing; a community building (use class F1) encompassing land for education provision, together with associated access, ancillary parking and landscaping; the creation of a vehicular access point from the A272 Cowfold Road, and pedestrian and cycle only access to The Street; and creation of a network of roads, footways, and cycleways through the site; together with the provision of countryside open space, children's play areas, community orchard, and allotments; sustainable drainage systems and landscape buffers.

Case Officer: Joanne Fisher

[Click for further information](#)

Customer Details

Address: Cowfold Road 4 diamond cottages Bolney

Comments Details

Commenter Type: Neighbour or general public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Reasons for comment:

Comments:

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the planning consultation for district plan 2021-2039 DPA14: Land at Foxhole Farm, Bolney.

I would like to state clearly objection to the plan laid out in the plan, it is clear that there are a number of issues which will impact the local community, services, sustainability and general village life that indicate the plan is not 'sound' from a sustainable development perspective.

I do not feel that the plan does not represent sustainable development given the local context and infrastructure, as highlighted in the following points:

Adding 200 houses to an existing small village should provide suitable access to services, facilities and infrastructure to meet the daily needs of those living there, present and future. This plan does not provide for suitable infrastructure in this regard.

The current school is already at capacity and the plan does not allow for any additional building or infrastructure to support an additional 200 homes worth of children within the catchment area. The mentioned land for educational purposes is not a suitable or sustainable solution as there is no allocation for buildings of teachers that could support the extra pupils.

The Street in the village is the main avenue of travel in and out of the village - on the eastern side, foxhole lane is a single track lane. Access from the A272 will cause significant and ongoing disruption and higher levels of congestion at the southern end of the village as well as causing disruption to an already very busy East/West road. This will cause new residents and old to use the single track lanes as rat runs to avoid traffic:

Foxhole lane is often already clogged and busy at times of the day due to the Bolney wine estate and reclamation yard up the road. There are very limited passing places, which are just muddy laybys not suitable for the current load of traffic, much less an increased volume which is to be expected when congestion occurs on the A272. I have already experienced a number of issues when walking up this road with my daughter in the buggy with near misses and cars going fast past walkers and road bikers.

The Street is also a single lane through the village center next to the pub with no passing places. There are no pavements in a significant section of the village. An increase in traffic here will significantly impact residents and also cause safety concerns to those using the pedestrian walkways which are in the road. Even with the current traffic load, walking along the pedestrian walkways here are challenging especially with a buggy or with children (this is the main access route to the primary school for

many). I have often had to move out of the way of oncoming traffic as the road is not wide enough to take two-way traffic, even when one is pedestrian.

The village currently has a minimal public transport connection - which is not planned to grow. This means that the additional 200 houses will need to be self-transporting with private cars, greatly increasing traffic in the area and the above issues.

Cycleways in and around the village are limited to bridleways and the main roads. The A272 is a very unsafe road to cycle on to get to either Haywards Heath or Cowfold to access services. I have done a triathlon on the A272 and had cars pass at high speed in both directions very close - this is a road to be avoided on a bike. However, in avoiding it, there are no other viable direct routes to nearby services.

Road Safety

The A272 between the traffic lights and the end of Brookside Cottages (at the end of Bolney Cross) is already unsafe. As a resident living on this road and having to cross it to get to our cars, we have seen countless crashes, near misses, high speed vehicles, overtaking in front of the cross roads, road bikes trying to cross from Chapel Lane to Foxhole Lane (a popular bike circuit) and having near misses. The road is busy and clogged at rush hours, drivers often have to apply brakes and skidding is frequent (hence the red high friction surface) because drivers come from a 60MPH zone to the east and then have a line of traffic ahead of them as a driver is turning at the crossroads or into the petrol station. This is already a source of numerous crashes and difficulties - to add another 200 houses of cars plus the added complications of other crossings and entrances will certainly cause increased danger to road users and inhabitants on what is already a dangerous piece of road.

As a resident at Diamond Cottages we are aware of FREQUENT accidents on the A272 outside our house on this exact stretch of road. We have witnessed many of these and also regularly see crashed cars left at the bottom of foxhole lane which are then later picked up, in many incidents the Police are not in attendance and therefore the incident is not recorded, this highlights the existing danger to road users, roadbikers and pedestrians alike without the significant added complications of additional features on this road.

The current traffic lights are also not safe - the road is a 40MPH zone, and as such cars come round the corner at speed without realising that ahead is a red light. Many drivers don't see it as its round the bend. At the end of the corner (Westbound) the driver then sees the red light but is still at 40MPH and they often struggle to stop. We have had incidents of drivers skidding to a halt at the lights (while we are crossing), with the car behind

nearly going into them. We also heard of a parent and child that were hit by a car on this crossing on a red light due to the same issue. Whenever we cross now we wait for the red light and then for the first car to have actually stopped before we cross. An increased traffic loading here and additional road systems/entrances will increase this existing danger.

The proposal to move this traffic light further eastward will compound the problem hugely and will be even more unsafe.

I note the proposal to include another crossing, a turning into the new development in addition to the existing traffic lights - in a very short stretch of road opposite a garage and small business park, next to a crossroads. In an already very busy and sometimes very congested area which sees big trucks, vans, cars and bikes all converging within a short stretch today, this seems like it will drastically worsen the section in terms of congestion, road safety. With the expectation of growing traffic levels in the area of the coming years I believe this will see the current already stretched and dangerous piece of road become more dangerous and difficult for residents and commuters and then continue to get worse with increasing traffic levels. Clearly this planning cannot be considered sustainable development or consider the future needs of the populace.

Generally I would already not let my children walk or ride to the school even along the pavements of the A272 or the Street due to safety concerns - increased pressure here is going to worsen the problem.

There are no facilities, shops, healthcare or other services planned or available to support an additional 200 houses.

It is already a challenge to get onto a medical surgery list - we had trouble getting into Cowfold which is the nearest doctors surgery - with no plans for additional services the pressure on local GPs will increase resulting in poorer healthcare options for those in the village and surrounding areas.

The current garage (the only place to stop to get milk or small items) is often full, with the forecourt overfull with cars without an additional 200 houses worth of people and potentially another additional 3-400 local cars. On many occasions the petrol forecourt traffic then backs up onto the A272 with cars parked in queue along the eastbound carriageway in the path of cars and trucks coming round the corner at 40MPH. This is already dangerous, additional traffic load and pedestrian traffic from new houses will cause a dangerous and unsafe environment for all road users.

Future sustainability - an allotment, small orchard, country park and the piece of unspecified land for educational purposes really

does not much value when compared to an additional 200 homes added to this area. A sustainable community that is growing needs actual shops, services and infrastructure to support it. In addition please consider:

Increased risk of flooding > More buildings will create additional run-off on low-lying areas on the edge of the field, particularly to the east and south, which are already flooded or brim-full after heavy rain, affecting houses and potentially roads.

Loss of valuable agricultural land. The nearby vineyards and orchards show the land has viable and essential agricultural potential that would be permanently lost.

Such a large development close to the AONB will cause a permanent loss of wildlife as habitats and food sources will become scarcer. Congestion will divert traffic to the small roads of the AONB, increasing the risk to wildlife.

I am also concerned that the new 'community building' run by Kangaroos for children with learning difficulties does not meet the needs of what the village requires. This will simply add outside footfall of those wishing to use the facility and not meaningfully contribute to the current residents locally. The cafe and other facilities will also rival our local village community cafe and pub, both of which do not need competition in the local area and require more local support to keep in business.

In conclusion I do not feel that this plan has well considered the needs of the village, and cannot be considered sustainable development for the reasons mentioned above, as such it cannot be considered sound and should be refused in its current form.

Kind regards