

From: planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk <planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 16 March 2026 13:54:55 UTC+00:00
To: "Rachel Richardson" <rachel.richardson@midsussex.gov.uk>
Subject: Mid Sussex DC - Online Register - Comments for Planning Application
DM/26/0412

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

Comments were submitted at 16/03/2026 1:54 PM.

Application Summary

Address: Barrington House Portsmouth Wood Drive Lindfield Haywards
Heath West Sussex RH16 2DW

Proposal: Proposed ground mounted PV solar panels

Case Officer: Rachel Richardson

[Click for further information](#)

Customer Details

Address: Middle Barrington, 10 Barrington Wood Lindfield West Sussex

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/26/0412 - Proposed ground mounted solar PV panels at Barrington House, Portsmouth Wood Drive, Lindfield.

I wish to object to the above planning application on the following planning grounds.

The proposed installation would have a harmful impact on the

character and visual appearance of the surrounding area. The site is positioned on steeply sloping ground above the wall and parking area below and forms a prominent part of the frontage of the property when viewed from Barrington Wood and the surrounding dwellings. Because of this elevated position, the proposed ground-mounted solar panels and their supporting structures would be highly visible and appear visually intrusive and overbearing within the existing streetscape.

Although the application refers to the site as being located within an "unused area of the rear garden", the location is in fact positioned at the front of the property and overlooks neighbouring homes and access area below. As such, it forms a noticeable feature when entering and moving through the close of Barrington Wood. Development in this location would therefore have a significant visual impact that would be out of keeping with the established character of the area and the surrounding vegetation and architecture.

I also note that the property has previously been identified as a non-designated heritage asset, reflecting the historic significance of the original Edwardian house and its grounds. The area in question historically formed part of the original garden setting of the house. Development on this particular site therefore risks undermining the historic character and setting of the property and its neighbouring dwellings.

In addition, I understand that a previous application to develop this same area (Ref: DM/23/0632) was refused, both initially and on appeal, partly due to the impact on the character and setting of the property. Those concerns appear to remain relevant to the current proposal.

I also have concerns regarding the lack of clarity within the submitted drawings and technical details. The application does not appear to provide sufficient information regarding the final height, slope and overall dimensions of the solar panel structures, nor clear elevation drawings illustrating their visual impact when viewed from the street below and the surrounding properties that will be affected by the installation. Without this information it is difficult to properly assess the scale and visual impact of the development.

There are also practical concerns regarding drainage and water run-off. The proposed installation is located on sloping ground above the shared car parking area and adjacent to my garage, which sits below the proposed development. I am concerned that rainwater run-off from the panels or supporting structures could be directed on the car parking area and potentially toward my garage. While I have discussed this with the applicant and he has indicated that screening or other measures may be installed to mitigate this risk, this issue is not clearly addressed within the

application documentation and remains a concern. In addition, due to the elevated position of the proposed development immediately above the shared parking area and adjacent to my garage, there is a risk that rainwater run-off could be directed toward neighbouring property. This raises concerns regarding potential water ingress and drainage impacts on my garage, which lies directly below the proposed installation. Such impacts would affect neighbouring amenity and should therefore be fully assessed before any development is considered.

I am also concerned that the application does not include any assessment of potential glint and glare from the proposed solar panels. Given the elevated and sloping position of the site above the parking area and access route, the panels may reflect sunlight toward neighbouring properties or vehicles using the access area below. No technical information has been provided to demonstrate that this issue has been properly considered or mitigated. In the absence of such information it is difficult to assess the potential impact on neighbouring amenity and users of the access area.

While I recognise and support the principle of renewable energy generation, it remains important that such installations are appropriately located so that they do not cause unacceptable harm to the character of the area or the setting of heritage assets. In this case, the highly visible and elevated location proposed would result in a visually intrusive form of development within a sensitive and prominent part of the site. The environmental benefits of the proposal do not outweigh the harm that would be caused to the character of the area and the setting of the property.

Finally, I would note that there appears to be alternative garden space within the grounds of the property that would be less visually prominent and more enclosed. In particular, there is a terrace that is more contained in the northwest boundary just north of the applicant's driveway which is significantly less visible from the surrounding neighbourhood. Locating any such installation in a more enclosed and private part of the garden would reduce its visual impact on neighbouring properties and the wider streetscape.

The proposal therefore appears inconsistent with the design and amenity principles within Mid Sussex District Aplan 2014-2031, which seek to ensure that development respects the character of its surroundings and does not create unacceptable impacts on neighbouring properties. These principles also reflect the national guidance contained in the National Planning Policy Framework.

For the reasons outlined above, I believe the proposal would have an unacceptable impact on the character and appearance of the area and raises practical concerns relating to the drainage and neighbouring amenity. I therefore respectfully request that the application be refused.

Yours faithfully

Adam Bourne
Middle Barrington
Barrington Wood
Lindfield
RH16 2DJ.

Kind regards