



Mr A Watt
Senior Planning Officer
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

Our ref MIDS/23/01
Your ref DM/24/2423
04.04.25

Dear Mr Watt,

Retention of stable at Great Thorndean Barn, Slough Green Lane, Warninglid, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH17 5SL

I refer to the planning application at the above site, your reference DM/23/2423. I note that the time period for consultation responses, as set out on the Site Notice posted at the property has expired.

A response has been received from Southern Water, who confirm that they have no objections.

Ansty and Staplefield Parish Council have commented, and they have raised an objection. They say that they object in principle *“as it is a retrospective planning application and in addition because they believe it goes against the neighbourhood plan.”*

The fact that the application is retrospective carries little weight in the determination of the application. The Planning Act allows for applications to be made retrospectively, and I would expect the Council to determine it in the same way as if it were not retrospective and assess it against policy as though it were a proposed development.

The Parish Council also say that they believe it goes against the neighbourhood plan. However, no specific policy of the neighbourhood plan is identified, and the Parish Council are unable to say which policy of the neighbourhood plan there is conflict with. In the Planning Design and Access Statement submitted with the application, the proposal is assessed against the only relevant policy of the neighbourhood plan- Policy AS3. This policy sets out a similar approach the District Council policy in relation to Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (now Natural Landscapes), with the prime aim of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the National Landscapes. One of the criteria is to demonstrate the need for the development. The need for the development is required as the keeping of horses and donkeys is, by definition, an activity that has to take place in the countryside, and a stable for the keeping of horses or donkeys is normally considered to be an essential requirement.



As a result, it is submitted that the proposed development does not conflict with any of the policies of the neighbourhood plan in particular, or the development plan as a whole. It is noted that the Parish Council do not allege any conflict with any policies of the Mid Sussex District Plan.

The occupier of the adjoining property (The Old Dairy) has also written in and raised no objections to the development, and in fact is positively supportive of the siting and use of the stable, and the use of the field for the keeping of animals.

I trust the above is clear. I would be grateful if you would put this letter on your file and take the comments into account in the determination of the application. In summary, I would submit that little weight be given the comments of the Parish Council, and greater weight should be given to the comments of the occupier of the adjoining property- arguably the resident likely to be most impacted by the development.

Yours sincerely,