

From: planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk <planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 08 April 2026 17:16:06 UTC+01:00
To: "Susan Dubberley" <susan.dubberley@midsussex.gov.uk>
Subject: Mid Sussex DC - Online Register - Comments for Planning Application
DM/26/0676

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

Comments were submitted at 08/04/2026 5:16 PM.

Application Summary

Address: West Hoathly Brickworks Hamsey Road Sharpthorne East
Grinstead West Sussex RH19 4PB

Proposal: Variation of condition no 31 relating to planning application
DM/23/0827 - to allow amendments to the Energy and
Sustainability Statement.

Case Officer: Susan Dubberley

[Click for further information](#)

Customer Details

Address: 1 Highcroft Cottages Station Road Sharpthorne

Comments Details

Commenter Type: Neighbour or general public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Reasons for comment:

Comments: I object to the proposed variation of Condition 31 for the following reasons:

- It removes an approved renewable energy measure. The original condition required compliance with the EV, PV and ASHP plan, but the variation now refers only to an EV and ASHP plan, removing the approved PV provision.

- This increases reliance on grid electricity. The applicant's own Energy and Sustainability Statement confirms that air source heat pumps utilise grid-based electricity and that ASHPs are being promoted instead of roof-mounted PV.

- This is not sustainable in a locality already affected by regular power outages. Removing on-site electricity generation while increasing dependence on electricity for heating and hot water risks placing further pressure on an already vulnerable local network.

- No DNO capacity assessment has been provided. There is no clear evidence of available network capacity, resilience, or headroom to show that the existing electricity infrastructure can support the increased demand resulting from the loss of PV alongside widespread ASHP use.

- Furthermore this runs against the direction of for building standards and policy. Current Approved Document L already addresses on-site electricity generation, and the recent Future Homes and Buildings Standards introduce a new functional requirement for on-site renewable electricity generation for new dwellings.

- It would appear to the less generous eye that the developer is trying to pre-empt tighter standards. By removing the approved PV provision while retaining an all-electric heating strategy, the application appears to be locking in a weaker energy approach before newer requirements for renewable electricity generation take effect, while still ticking the correct 'sustainability' boxes.

That concern is reinforced by the fact that national policy now explicitly supports building solar AND low-carbon heating into new homes as standard. Overall it appears to be a cynical attempt to both cut costs and avoid potential requirements for more significant PV installation in the near future.

For those reasons, the proposed variation of Condition 31 should be refused.

Kind regards