

From: planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk <planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 06 June 2025 18:36:01 UTC+01:00
To: "Hamish Evans" <hamish.evans@midsussex.gov.uk>
Subject: Mid Sussex DC - Online Register - Comments for Planning Application
DM/25/1349

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

Comments were submitted at 06/06/2025 6:36 PM.

Application Summary

Address:	Land At Ockley Park Ockley Hill Ockley Lane Hassocks West Sussex
Proposal:	The installation of 1 No. 25 metre high lattice tower mounted with 9 No. antenna apertures and 3 No. GPS nodes, 12 No. cabinets, within a compound comprised of 2.4 metre high green palisade fence, 1 No. electrical metre cabinet and associated development thereto
Case Officer:	Hamish Evans

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Customer Details

Address: 17 Wingle Tye Road Burgess Hill

Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Neighbour or general public
Stance:	Customer objects to the Planning Application
Reasons for comment:	
Comments:	Having reviewed the documents, I am appalled that, despite residents' prior objections to the installation of this mast within Nightingale Meadows, there is now an attempt to install it immediately adjacent to Batchelor's Farm Nature Reserve, immediately beside the older community orchard.

The images supplied grossly misrepresent the location and the impact this monstrosity will have on the local area. The projections used actively seek to conceal the true height and level of intrusion this would have on the rural setting, as well as the views to the South Downs National Park.

This dishonesty alone should be grounds for dismissal, but the impact on active access to a very well-loved, heavily used and protected public space render this completely unacceptable.

The proposed installation towers over the nearest trees by half to a third of their height. The noise from the machinery at its base will be disruptive to the tranquility of this rural and protected location and would be of detriment to local wildlife. This area is one of few remaining seasonal habitats for nightingales, a species that has experienced phenomenal decline in the UK as a direct result of habitat loss caused by over development. Nightingales rely on dense hedging and undergrowth, such as the brambled area indicated on the map. To remove this to facilitate an unwanted construction of this kind would be wanton ecological and environmental vandalism, especially when taken in the context of other extensive damage to natural habitats within hundreds of metres of this location.

Mobile signal within the local area is very good with existing masts located on top of the Water Tower, a few hundred yards from the proposed location. Local residents will therefore not benefit, but will be placed at detriment as a result of this installation. It should also be noted that within moments of passing through this area, trains enter Clayton Tunnel to the South, where signal will not be received anyway, significantly limiting the demand and value of this service. The benefit - to those briefly passing through our community - will be fleeting and nominal, at best, and does not justify the impact on this natural space or our local community.

Access to the location for building works would also necessitate the destruction of a further area of mature trees and hedgerows, which is unacceptable - both from an aesthetic perspective, and due to the irreplaceable loss of established natural habitats that this will cause. Similarly, regular access by heavy plant, across Batchelor's Farm, would damage the already heavy clay soil, and the rare meadow landscape.

I would ask that any installation, should the unnecessary waste of money be progressed in spite of the absence of consent from the local community, be greatly reduced in height, and designed to be concealed or disguised, as other installations are. I would also expect it to be acknowledged and that access is not viable Batchelor's Farm, where it will greatly impact the community - this being the sole western entrance to the nature reserve, beloved of the community and used throughout the day and week to exercise and walk pets - and the landscape.

The local authority has presided over too much damage to our community already. Please do not permit any further insult or destruction.

Kind regards