

Caroline Grist

From: planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk
Sent: 05 June 2026 21:50
To: Caroline Grist
Subject: Mid Sussex DC - Online Register - Comments for Planning Application DM/26/1315

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

Comments were submitted at 05/06/2026 9:49 PM.

Application Summary

Address:	Land West Of Gatesmead Wickham Way Haywards Heath West Sussex
Proposal:	Proposed 49 new homes together with open space and associated infrastructure.
Case Officer:	Caroline Grist

[Click for further information](#)

Customer Details

Address:	15 Old Wickham Lane Haywards Heath
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Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Neighbour or general public
Stance:	Customer objects to the Planning Application
Reasons for comment:	
Comments:	Dear Case Officer,

I am writing to express my strong objection to planning application DM/26/1315, for several important reasons that I believe carry significant weight and merit careful consideration.

First and foremost, the issue of the undetermined right of way (DMMO 3/22) remains unresolved. West Sussex County Council has yet to determine the legal status of the alleged public right of way that runs over or adjacent to the proposed development site, leaving the matter open for more than four and a half years. Many in the local community, myself and my family included, have long regarded this route as accessible land for walking and recreation - I understand from elderly residents that it has been in use since at least the end of WWII. The established paths over Wickham Fields are clear and obvious for everyone to see with hundreds of dog walkers, families and other users accessing the fields each day in the spring and summer months in particular. It is deeply concerning to think that if the right of way is later confirmed, this development could permanently block a route that residents have enjoyed for

many decades. I do not believe it is right for any planning decision to be made before the Council has resolved its own legal process regarding DMMO 3/22.

Secondly, this proposal would result in the loss of approximately 11 acres of open grassland, with a significant impact on local biodiversity. The area is a haven for wildlife-protected species such as the black redstart and slow worm have been recorded here, along with green and great spotted woodpeckers, buzzards, sparrowhawks, and red kites. My family and I enjoy walks in this beautiful space at least five times a week and often observe these species firsthand. Losing this unique green area would be a huge blow not just to local residents but also to the wildlife that depends on it. Comparable, accessible, open green space within walking distance is extremely limited and under similar pressure from development. I urge that the applicant's ecological evidence be independently reviewed to ensure the full environmental impact is properly assessed.

The proposal also threatens the setting and significance of two Grade II* listed buildings- Wickham Farmhouse and Sunte House. The countryside surroundings are an intrinsic part of their heritage value, offering context and character that cannot be replaced. I pass these buildings several times each week and appreciate how the open landscape enhances their presence and meaning. The applicant's own consultants acknowledge that the development may adversely affect these heritage assets. I do not believe that the public benefit of 49 new homes outweighs the lasting harm to these irreplaceable historic buildings, especially when alternative sites are available.

For these reasons, I strongly object to application DM/26/1315 and ask that it be refused. Should the application proceed, I strongly request that it be considered by the Planning Committee, rather than under delegated powers, given the unresolved legal status of DMMO 3/22, the significance of the site, and the potential impact on two Grade II* listed buildings.

Thank you for considering my views on this important matter.

Kind regards,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of the sender.

Kind regards