

From: planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk <planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 14 June 2026 12:58:44 UTC+01:00
To: "Caroline Grist" <caroline.grist@midsussex.gov.uk>
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 14/06/2026 12:58 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:	23 Summerhill Close Haywards Heath
----------	------------------------------------

Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Neighbour or general public
Stance:	Customer objects to the Planning Application
Reasons for comment:	
Comments:	I wish to object to planning application DM/26/1315. The application should not be determined until West Sussex County Council has resolved the long-outstanding Definitive Map Modification Order application DMMO 3/22, which has remained undetermined since 15 November 2021 - over four and a half years. Until the legal status of the alleged public right of way over or adjacent to the site is confirmed, Mid Sussex District Council cannot properly assess a proposal that may prejudice that route. It

would be wrong to allow 49 homes to be built before the County Council has completed its own legal process.

The development would result in the permanent loss of approximately 11 acres of open grassland that forms an important part of our local green space. As a resident, I (and many of my neighbours) regularly walk the surrounding paths. The site and adjacent fields support notable wildlife, including black redstarts, slow worms, green and great spotted woodpeckers, buzzards, sparrowhawks and red kites. Losing this open space would be a significant loss for both biodiversity and for local families who value this accessible green area close to home.

There is no comparable open space of similar quality within easy walking distance that isn't already under development pressure.

Vehicular access to the site is proposed solely via Gatesmead, a quiet residential street that is already busy at school-run times and during rush hour. The junction visibility, existing on-street parking, and pedestrian safety are already concerns, and the additional traffic from 49 homes plus construction vehicles would make this significantly worse. I have witnessed near-misses at the junction and am very concerned about the impact of large lorries and increased traffic on our daily lives, particularly for children walking to school.

In addition, the development would cause harm to the settings of two important Grade II* listed buildings - Wickham Farmhouse (c.1580) and Sunte House (Queen Anne period). The open countryside around them is part of what makes them special and contributes greatly to the character of the area. The applicant's own heritage consultants have acknowledged that development here may affect their significance. Given the high bar set by the NPPF for designated heritage assets, I do not believe the public benefit of these homes outweighs the harm when other sites are available.

Finally, local infrastructure is already stretched. GP waiting times are long, school places in the catchment are under pressure, and surface water flooding has been an issue on Gatesmead and surrounding roads. The cumulative impact of this and other recent developments has not been properly addressed.

I therefore object to application DM/26/1315 and ask that it be refused. Given the significance of the site, the unresolved DMMO 3/22, and the impact on two Grade II* listed buildings, I also request that the application be determined by the Planning Committee rather than under delegated powers.

Kind regards

