

From: planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk <planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 14 June 2026 13:22:21 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 1:22 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:	7 The Sandlings Aldeburgh
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Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Neighbour or general public
Stance:	Customer objects to the Planning Application
Reasons for comment:	
Comments:	I wish to register my strongest objection to the proposed development by Crest Nicholson of 49 new homes in the field at the top of Wickham Way. My husband and I lived in Wickham Way for twenty years, raised our family there and like so many others enjoyed and placed great value on the accessibility of open countryside on our doorsteps. Wickham Field has, through 'custom and practice', been a place much used and enjoyed by the local population for walking,

exercise and recreation. It represents a 'green corridor' for access to the High Weald trail. Every day we saw walkers and families walking past our house en-route to the field. There is very clear evidence of the benefits to our mental and physical health of spending time outdoors in the countryside and it is a travesty that this much loved area of town and one of the last remaining pockets of countryside close to town is now under threat of development.

I appreciate the need for housing development in our country but with recent developments at Penland Green, Birchen Lane, Sunte House, Lindfield, Wivelsfield Green and the Burgess Hill 'Northern Arc' surely Mid Sussex has done it's bit and any further development will be for the benefit of landowners and developers. This development will, I am sure, be against the wishes, of the majority of local residents and I implore decision makers to acknowledge the strength of local opinion in wanting to preserve this much loved and valuable site. Local opinion should be respected.

A new development of this size could potentially bring another hundred cars into this part of town. The frequently gridlocked areas around College Road, Portsmouth Lane and the Gander Hill roundabout would be greatly impacted as would residents of these areas by congestion, traffic noise and pollution. It goes without saying that there would be further negative impact on already overstretched infrastructure such as schools and surgeries.

The above are all important points but my main objection to the development proposal relates to the fact that Wickham Field is a piece of real open countryside - a rich and mature habitat for wildlife, plants and trees and a place of true beauty in the increasingly built up and urbanised environment of Haywards Heath. Once developed, it is lost forever. The developers promise to provide 'open space and associated infrastructure'. I find this contemptuous - no amount of attractive planting, landscaping and the building of play areas can compensate for the loss of this beautiful field. (Incidentally, it appears from reading reviews that Crest Nicholson does not have a great record of delivering on its promises in this regard). Surely there are other, more appropriate sites for Crest Nicholson to plant its housing units.

My husband and I left Wickham Way two and a half years ago in large part because we couldn't bear to witness the continuing development of a town we were once proud to call home. Like so many others, we feel immensely strongly that this much loved and valuable small plot of land should be protected from development to enhance the living experience of the residents of Haywards Heath.

Kind regards

