

From: planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk <planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 06 January 2025 19:53:52 UTC+00:00
To: "Joanne Fisher" <joanne.fisher@midsussex.gov.uk>
Subject: Mid Sussex DC - Online Register - Comments for Planning Application
DM/24/2922

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

Comments were submitted at 06/01/2025 7:53 PM.

Application Summary

Address:	Hollyrood House Ardingly Road Lindfield Haywards Heath West Sussex RH16 2RA
Proposal:	Removal of outbuildings and alterations to the existing buildings and hardsurfaces to allow for a change of use from Class C2 (residential institution) use to a Class C3 (dwellinghouse) use to provide 3 no. 1-bed flats, 14 no. 2-bed flats, and 2 no. 3-bed two storey dwellings (and retaining Holy Rood Cottage as a 3-bed dwelling), together with 37 no. car parking spaces, private and communal amenity spaces, landscaping, bin and cycle stores. Alterations to existing access points onto and from Ardingly Road and Park Lane
Case Officer:	Joanne Fisher

[Click for further information](#)

Customer Details

Address: 13 Kings Barn Lane Steyning

Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Neighbour or general public
Stance:	Customer objects to the Planning Application
Reasons for comment:	
Comments:	Writing strongly objecting to the submission 5.4 of the application. "The site is owned by The Disabilities Trust and was formerly

occupied as a care home by the Trust. The site became vacant in 2022, with the Trust having identified that there were more appropriately located facilities elsewhere to meet local care home needs, in buildings that were inherently more suited to modern care home facilities compared with the "institutional" form of Hollyrood in a rural location. Since its closure in 2022, there has been no appreciable impact caused by the loss of the facility... 2021 and June 2024 it is evident that there is no demand for a continuation of the existing care home use. The lack of demand is mainly because of the rural location of the site and the difficulties in maintaining and updating the building to provide an acceptable level of accommodation suitable for modern day care facilities."

This development, to turn the current site into flats and houses, was promised to the former residents of Hollyrood, all with severe learning disabilities and severe autism. Families were shown drawings and plans and residents and families were asked for input into the designs. We had numerous meetings. On site, staff and our loved ones tolerated a dilapidated site for years on the promise of a beneficial development fit for the vulnerable residents and front line staff which would be fully compliant with modern models of care. No investment ever came despite the Disabilities Trust having around £94 million in reserves in 2021. The residents were forced out. We had to force a Judicial Review for The Disability Trust to give an adequate consultation and transition time for the very vulnerable residents. There were NO local places available to the individuals turfed out of their homes. Some ex-residents suffered extreme trauma because of the actions of the management and trustees of this "charity". For families, those months desperately searching for suitable alternative homes for those among the most challenging to place, was truly a living nightmare. For us, ensuring that our son did not join the over 2000 individuals in long-term mental health institutions totally unsuited to their needs, was our priority. (Hollyrood wasn't an institution it was a care home and the good quality staff made it as person-centred as possible within the buildings starved of money - see CQC report 2021). The Disabilities Trust has since changed its name to Brainkind, presumably hoping the bad publicity their actions caused over Hollyrood and some of their other establishments in Sussex and beyond, could be forgotten. Go ahead and develop the site but the families who saw their loved ones treated in the most despicable manner will never forget what happened in 2021. Hopefully, a more person-centred, competent and caring company can staff and manage it. One final point, how does the new development square with the stated unattractiveness of a rural site? One of the criticisms of Hollyrood was that it was isolated and not in a town. The proposal is to change the buildings (what we all wanted) but not the location. It will still be rural, with the one bus stop that Hollyrood staff campaigned so hard to get. The only other access is by road.

Kind regards