

Sarah Valentine

From: lesley berry <lesleyberry0977@yahoo.co.uk>
Sent: 06 August 2026 20:00
To: planninginfo
Subject: Comments for Amended Planning Application DM/26/0073

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Dear Mr Swift

Having looked at the amended plans for the above application, we can see no evidence that the issues concerning drainage, ancient woodland, ecology, imfrastructure, danger caused by increased traffic on the narrow road and the likelihood of further development have been resolved. Furthermore since the original plans were submitted we have experienced several heat waves, another hosepipe ban and more water outages in some areas, again clearly demonstrating the inadequacy of the current water supply system.

The reduction in the number of houses to be built is minimal and whilst the amended plans might be more aesthetically pleasing, very little else has changed. Therefore our original objections shown below still stand.

Customer Details	
Name:	
Email:	
Address:	

Comments: We strongly object to the proposed housing development at Dunnings Road/West Hoathly Road on the following grounds:

1. This is an AONB site and the National Planning Policy states that these areas are not to be disturbed except in exceptional circumstances and for the benefit of the local community. We can see no exceptional circumstances and this would certainly NOT be to the benefit of the surrounding community. It is also within the exclusion zone for Ashdown Forest as well as being outside of the permitted built up area which is stated in the current (up to 2031) Mid Sussex District planning policy.
2. The local area supports a lot of wildlife, including badgers and endangered birds such as the yellowhammer which is red listed by the RSPB and has suffered a decline of 50% in the last 25 years. In our opinion, a housing development would have a highly negative impact on the surrounding wildlife and ancient woodlands as well as on the environment.
3. The local infrastructure is already overloaded and there has been no increase in the number of schools or doctors surgeries to cope with the extra housing which has already been built in the area.
4. South East Water is already unable to meet the current water demands, as evidenced by the recent and frequent water outages, some of which was caused by Victorian water mains bursting and some by faults in the pumping systems. The reservoirs are clearly not large enough to supply enough water in the changing climate patterns, again as evidenced by the recent hosepipe ban which was in place between July and February. The infrastructure was not built to service such a population increase. Just adding in more pipelines etc to a failing system will only exacerbate the problem and all of these issues need to be addressed and updated BEFORE any more new housing is built
5. The local area is already prone to flooding and the removal of fields and trees which soak up the increased rainfall and the building of yet more houses with hard/concrete drives and roads will only make the situation worse.
6. This road is very narrow with several bends and any increase in traffic would cause unacceptable congestion, especially during school time and also when Standen House and

Gardens are in their busy periods. More cars would pose a danger to the safety of children using the schools and other facilities which are close by. The pavement between Dunnings Mill and Coombe Hill Road is extremely narrow and pedestrians often have to walk in the road to pass each other when walking in opposite directions.

7. If this planning application is approved, we believe it will set a precedent for more housing developments to be built within protected areas. There seems little point in having AONB, SSSI etc sites if they can be totally ignored by planning departments!

Kind regards

