

Sarah Valentine

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 September 2026 11:02
To: planninginfo
Subject: objection to application DM/26/2178

Re Application DM/26/2178

Erection of 6 dwellings

Dear Ms Dubberley

I write to object to the above proposal for a number of reasons.

Having lived in the Conservation Area of Hurst Wickham for 40 years, I have seen in steady increase in traffic generated by additional housing within the area, the significant change by Hurstpierpoint College to take day pupils and expand the age range of their intake and the use of College Lane by traffic travelling North/South wishing to avoid the increasingly congested village High Street.

College Lane residents experience high levels of through traffic from in-out commuting, delivery vehicles and pupils' daily attendance at Hurstpierpoint College. We have all witnessed an increasingly large number of lorries often headed to building projects at the College or the recent development of 7 properties on an adjacent site. The level of traffic, particularly at peak times, significantly affects the environmental quality. Residents' cars are dented, scraped and on several occasions have been written off. The Lane is treacherous for pedestrians having no pavements. Residents within the conservation area frequently suffer damage to their walls and railings - intrinsic to the nature of the conservation area.

College Lane, owing to its narrow nature, is frequently blocked. Queues can go back to the junction with Wickham Hill and North for a mile or more towards the college. The air is polluted; the environment filled with car horns and foul language. We have witnessed road rage that has led to fighting. On occasion that the high street is closed the Lane always comes to an angry standstill. Emergency Vehicles have at times been unable to get through.

Whilst this proposal may appear to be a small-scale development, the location means that residents would be reliant on car usage. The resultant incremental rise in traffic movement would have a negative effect on the Lane. The site fails to meet sustainability tests. There is no local bus service, the nearest stop being on Wickham Hill which is about a 25 minute walk from the site. The nearest station a 40 minute walk. Both walks up a long hill with no pavement.

The proposed site of rural grazing land falls within the countryside area of development restraint. Its long established agricultural nature contributes to the semi rural character of the area. It maintains the open view over farm land and building here would do significant harm to the character and appearance of the locality.

The site is outside the built up area boundary and certainly cannot be classed as 'infill'. Development here would result in loss of greenfield land and biodiversity which, in the days of climate change, it is critical to protect. Building on this site will do irrevocable damage to the natural habitat. The Council for the Protection of Rural England has identified sufficient brownfield land to accommodate government housing targets without using greenfield sites. We ignore the need to protect our green fields at the risk of further climate change. This development would not only destroy fields but add to pollution on a local level.

Flooding. The low-lying section of College Lane, just north of this site, is prone to regular winter flooding. The development would destroy the open fields that help to absorb rainfall and significantly add to run off increasing the flooding of the road.

Local infrastructure. The capacity of the local primary school and Downlands secondary school are constrained. Both are at maximum capacity. Our doctors' surgery is full and waiting times are high.

Water. The drought this year has demonstrated how vulnerable our water supply is. I have had weekly emails from Southern Water explaining the impoverished state of the aquifers which supply our local area. It is a concern for everybody that the water supply is of low pressure and increasingly under threat.

I believe this application should be called in for discussion by the planning committee.

I ask the committee to refuse the application on the following summarized grounds:

The proposal is outside of the built up area.

The proposal cannot be classed as infill.

The proposal is not sustainable.

The proposal would do significant harm to the character and appearance of the locality.

The proposal would increase the risk of flooding.

The proposal will add increased traffic to an already congested and narrow Lane

The proposal will put additional burden on the already over stretch infrastructure which, by the incremental nature of building in the area cannot be sustained.

The proposal would mean the destruction of greenfield land which must be protected for the sake of biodiversity and to contribute to protection against climate change.

Yours sincerely

