

From: planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk <planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 22 June 2026 22:14:11 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 22/06/2026 10:14 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:	97 Gordon Road Haywards Heath
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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 object to planning application DM/26/1315. I moved to Gordon Road in late 2025 after purchasing my first home and intend to remain in the area for many years. A few months after moving here, I discovered the fields west of Gatesmead and have come to appreciate their value to local residents, wildlife and the character of the area. One of my principal concerns is the loss of green space and the

impact on biodiversity. During regular walks around the site I have observed a wide variety of bird species including blue tits, great tits, blackbirds, wrens, chiffchaffs, robins, crows and dunnocks. I have also frequently seen rabbits in the fields. These observations demonstrate that the site provides valuable habitat for wildlife and forms part of an important green space close to existing residential areas.

The fields are also clearly well used by the local community. During my walks I regularly see dog walkers, families and children enjoying the area. My partner and I are planning to get a dog and one of the things that has made us value living here is having access to open countryside within walking distance of our home. We have made extensive use of the footpaths across the fields and enjoy exploring different walking routes through the area. One of our favourite places is the bridge overlooking the railway line, where people often stop to enjoy the views across the fields and watch the trains pass below. These experiences may seem simple, but they are an important part of what makes this landscape special and contribute to the wellbeing of many local residents.

I am also concerned about the impact of the development on the setting of Wickham Farm. Before I knew anything about the building's history or listed status, I walked past it and was immediately struck by how distinctive and historic it appeared. After learning more about its significance, I came to appreciate that much of its character derives from its relationship with the surrounding open countryside. The fields help preserve the historic agricultural setting of the farmhouse and contribute to its sense of place. Development of this scale would significantly alter that setting and erode part of the character that makes the building special.

I also have concerns regarding traffic and highway impacts. My partner drives to work via Balcombe Road and turns into Mill Green Road almost directly opposite the entrance to Wickham Way. We are therefore very familiar with traffic conditions in this area. The stretch of Balcombe Road around the bend between the junctions with Mill Green Road and Wickham Way is frequently congested, particularly at peak times. It is common to see queues forming in both directions as vehicles wait to turn into these roads. The local network already experiences significant pressure and I am concerned that additional traffic generated by 49 new dwellings would worsen congestion and potentially affect highway safety.

In addition to my own observations, I support concerns raised regarding the loss of biodiversity, the impact on open green space, pressures on local infrastructure, unresolved public rights of way issues and the effect on heritage assets associated with the site.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that Mid Sussex District Council refuse planning application DM/26/1315.

Kind regards