

From: planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk <planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 23 June 2026 11:43:08 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 23/06/2026 11:43 AM.

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:	19 Birchen Lane 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:	With reference to DM/26/1315 I feel I must strongly object for the following reasons:-

I have lived in the vicinity of the land in question for almost 30 years. We moved into the area with young children and have spent many hours enjoying this land as they grew up. It is so important for the health and well being of people to have somewhere green to walk, play and exercise. We have enjoyed

the wildlife, the beautiful trees and landscape through the changing seasons. I regularly see and hear the woodpeckers as I walk and have also seen owls, birds of prey and slow worms. These things are incredibly important for a community's health and well being these days and there is less and less of it now in this area and we should protect this for future generations. I walk this area daily with my dog as do many friends and neighbours. There is now nowhere else that I can walk without getting into my car first, which would add another pressure to our already very busy road network in this area. We have already lost the beautiful piece of woodland that the first Crest Nicholson development of Birchen Oak has taken.

I also believe that there is currently an undetermined DMMO relating to the land (DMMO 3/22) so MSDC cannot properly determine a planning application that affects a contested right of way. Any decision made before DMMO 3/22 is determined would prejudice the planning decision and any future enforcement of the right of way.

As a resident of Birchen Lane I have also experienced first hand the extra traffic that the Birchen Oak development has created. The queues to get out of Birchen Lane and on to Portsmouth Lane are already a problem at times and the deterioration of the lower end of the lane is obvious. The road is constantly full of potholes in constant need of repair, which will only become worse with increased traffic. A lot of school children use this route and I am concerned about the increased risk of an accident!

Gatesmead was a quiet residential cul de sac, not built for the extra traffic that Birchen Oak has already created. More construction traffic will further damage roads and likely create even more problems, particularly during rush hour times. During the initial build of Birchen Oak entry to Birchen Lane was often disrupted by construction vehicles blocking the road or trying to turn at the junction.

This little area of Haywards Heath is also the location of two Grade II* Listed buildings; Wickham Farm and Sunte House. The remnant countryside setting of these two buildings forms part of why they are listed and this should continue to be the case. The setting of these buildings gives the area a special character which once removed is lost forever. I walk past both of these buildings on a very regular basis and have never stopped appreciating their beauty and their setting.

Finally, the infrastructure of this area is under huge pressure. I have personally experienced the difficulty of getting an appointment at my GP surgery. The Princess Royal is under huge pressure constantly as are our ambulance services etc. The local schools are struggling with places and class sizes continue to increase putting more pressure on our teachers. As a resident of

Birchen Lane I would also be extremely concerned about how the drainage for these 49 new homes was going to be managed. Birchen Lane already has drainage issues at certain times, relying on a very old system which would certainly not cope with any added pressure. There are often problems with flooding at a couple of places on Portsmouth Lane during times of heavy rainfall which is likely to be exacerbated by less open land.

I therefore object to DM/26/1315 and ask that the application be refused but, if it is to be determined, that it be considered by the Planning Committee rather than under delegated powers, given the significance of the site, the unresolved legal status of DMMO 3/22 and the impact on Wickham Farm and Sunte House.

Kind regards