

Caroline Grist

From: planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk
Sent: 09 September 2026 17:32
To: Caroline Grist
Subject: Mid Sussex DC - Online Register - Comments for Planning Application DM/26/0481

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

Comments were submitted at 09/09/2026 5:32 PM.

Application Summary

Address:	Natwest 15 London Road East Grinstead West Sussex RH19 1AJ
Proposal:	Change of use of first and second storey floorspace of the existing building from commercial (Class E) use to 7 x HMO bedrooms (Sui Generis) use with associated communal facilities, single storey rear extension, new rooflight and windows, extension of existing wall and a new flat roof to the rear. (Revised Flood Risk Assessment received 18.06.2026. Revised plans received 31.07.2026. Revised description agreed 18.08.2026)
Case Officer:	Caroline Grist

[Click for further information](#)

Customer Details

Address:	1 Cynthia House East Grinstead
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Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Neighbour or general public
Stance:	Customer objects to the Planning Application
Reasons for comment:	
Comments:	Dear Planning Officer, Objection to Planning Application. I wish to formally object to the above planning application on the following grounds. 1. Fire Escape Route, Privacy and Security Concerns The proposed fire escape route crosses directly over my roof, creating unrestricted access to it at all times. I am concerned that this area could become an informal smoking area for residents, resulting in cigarette ends being discarded onto the courtyard below or left on the

roof, potentially blocking drainage systems. Given that the roof surface is tarmac, this also presents a potential fire risk.

The submitted plans do not identify or show the two existing skylights located on the flat roof above my kitchen and bathroom, which are the sole source of natural light for those rooms. If residents are able to access the roof, they will be able to look directly through these skylights, resulting in a serious invasion of privacy when my daughter or I use the bathroom and toilet or moving around my home. I should not be placed in a position where people can look into my living accommodation from above.

The proposal also raises significant security concerns. Easy access to the roof could provide an opportunity for intruders to gain entry through the skylights. Furthermore, the proposed sliding ladder may be used as a shortcut into the courtyard and could potentially be left permanently lowered, obstructing natural light and providing even easier access to the roof for unauthorised persons.

2. Courtyard Safety and Lack of Lighting

The rear courtyard provides the only means of access to the four existing flats. Although the courtyard currently has no lighting, it was previously free of obstacles and trip hazards. Since building works has commenced, the courtyard has become cluttered with construction materials, making it hazardous to navigate, particularly in poor lighting conditions. I am also concerned about four steel post holders that have been installed, they appear to be incorrectly protruding to high from the ground, creating a significant trip hazard.

The proposal also includes bicycle storage and waste bin facilities within the courtyard, yet no provision appears to have been made for adequate lighting. Given the increased use of the courtyard and the potential hazards present, suitable lighting should be considered an essential element of the development.

3. Waste Storage and Residential Amenity

I am extremely concerned that the plans do not indicate where refuse and recycling bins will be permanently located. All of my windows overlook the courtyard. If bins are positioned close to my property, I may be unable to open my windows without being affected by unpleasant odours, flies, wasps, ants, vermin. This would have a significant adverse impact on my enjoyment of my home and my ability to ventilate my living space.

Similarly, I do not believe it would be reasonable for residents having to walk around or pass close to pungent waste storage areas on a daily basis, if they are located near the entrance or exit route.

4. Impact on My Disabled Daughter

My 16-year-old daughter, who is a low functioning autistic girl with severe behavioural problems, (with a mental age of 6) and suffering from Misophonia, (severe aversion to noise), culminating in significant additional needs, stays with me on weekends. The main reason I chose to live at this property, was, it provided a quiet environment to help alleviate my daughter's severe sensitivity to noise and changes in her surroundings, for instance, unexpected noise, disruption to routine, unpleasant odours, or the presence of insects such as flies and wasps that can cause significant distress and behavioural difficulties that often last for extended periods.

I am deeply concerned about the impact that both the construction phase (noise) and the completed development may have on her wellbeing and our ability to continue enjoying the property. The cumulative effect of increased noise, changes to the environment, and any reduction in residential amenity could significantly affect our family circumstances.

Conclusion

For the reasons set out above, I respectfully request that the Council refuses planning permission for this application, or at the very least requires substantial amendments to

address the serious concerns relating to privacy, security, safety, waste storage, lighting, and residential amenity.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted Signature]

Tenant, Flat 1
Cynthia, 11A Cantelupe Road

Kind regards