



Rear of Village Hall
The Green
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DM/26/0233 Grindens Orchard - Single storey rear extension with rooflights and pergola structure

Horsted Keynes Parish Council makes the following **COMMENT** relating to minimising potential light pollution resulting from the proposals.

The site is in the High Weald National Landscape an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and one of the key character components of the area is its Dark Skies.

By reference to the HW AONB Management Plan and the attached Planning Technical Advice Note, it is noted that:

“The High Weald AONB is characterised by having some of the darkest skies in the South-east of England, with the least skyglow. This gives the AONB a sense of remoteness and peacefulness and connects the natural environment to the cultural and historic landscape.”

The HW AONB Management Plan includes the following objectives that are relevant to this application:

- *DS1 To preserve the dark skies of the High Weald AONB by minimising light pollution, obtrusive external lighting and **internal light spill** from domestic, commercial and public premises in both existing and new developments within the High Weald, and from highways lighting.*
- *DS2 To protect wildlife and habitats from light pollution across the High Weald.*

Within the parish there has been a very significant increase in planning applications during recent years that have included proposals to introduce roof lights and these, by their very nature, tend to cause light pollution by creating internal light spill.

The Parish Council is very keen to see the dark skies in and around the parish protected. It is one of the key priorities that has repeatedly been expressed by parishioners throughout the Neighbourhood Development Plan process and whenever applications such as this are considered.

The Parish Council therefore urge MSDC to ensure, through an appropriately worded condition, that the following mitigation measures are included within the



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design in order to have regard for the objectives set out in the HW AONB Management Plan and thereby make the proposals compliant with DP16:

1. Black out blinds that can be easily operated by the occupier.
2. Glazing to be less than 0.7 Visible Light Transmission (Ref: Part 2 of Planners' Check List in the attached Planning Technical Advice).

Attachment:

High Weald National Landscape Planning Technical Advice Note Dark Skies in the High Weald.

11 February 26