

From: planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk <planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 25 June 2026 11:16:17 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 25/06/2026 11:16 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

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Customer Details

Address: 28 Wickham Way Haywards Heath

Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Neighbour or general public
Stance:	Customer objects to the Planning Application
Reasons for comment:	
Comments:	I am very disappointed that this land is being considered for housing development. The area is incredibly popular with visitors, dog walkers, hikers and families (particularly in the spring, summer and autumn). There is a wide range of flora and fauna and it is a natural habitat for many rare butterflies and birds. Residents also believe that were the houses built across an area where there is a right of way, there would be no turning back and further application would be made to build further accommodation

and destroying the fields completely.

I believe that it is imperative that no action should be considered until West Sussex County Council has completed its own process not least because it would set a dangerous precedent.

The loss of one of the few open green spaces in the area with the loss of circa 11 acres would have a serious impact on a number of protected species including the Schedule 1 protected Black Redstart, buzzards and red kites.

As a nearby resident my family and visiting friends regularly visit Wickham Fields who all comment on the delightful setting. Our young grandchildren love the open space and never stop asking questions about the plants and wildlife. We are not alone in this as our neighbours also take family and friends to stroll through the fields. As mentioned earlier it is a favourite with many local dog walkers. It seems that green spaces are under continual pressure by housing developers wherever you look around Haywards Heath and Cuckfield.

With regard to Gatesmead, it is particularly difficult for those living in a residential road which is not built for the high increase in the volume that would result should the development be allowed. Everything from large construction vehicles on day 1 to a constant flow after any development was completed. Pedestrian access would suffer especially at school opening and closing times. In addition, the increased traffic flow would also affect the already precarious state of the pot holed roads. College Road is already a very busy thoroughfare with a high volume of lorries and vans weaving through the parked cars. The potential for accidents to pedestrians, cyclists and other road users would be significant. There are also historical considerations that should be considered including the impact on 16th century Wickham Farmhouse and 18th century Sunte House. Both are Grade 2 listed and obviously any damage to these buildings would be a little short of an act of desecration.

A further factor to consider is the impact on local schools. already overstretched GP services, erratic water provision (the regular hose pipe bans are a regular occurrence). More housing will exacerbate these factors.

In conclusion, I object to DM/26/1315 and ask that the application be refused. If it is to be considered I would ask that it be considered by the Planning Committee and not under delegated powers given the importance of the site, unresolved legal status of the DMMO 3/22 and the impact on two Grade 2 listed buildings and a wide variety of rare birdlife and other animals.

Kind regards