

Andy Watt

From: planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk
Sent: 29 October 2024 19:21
To: Andy Watt
Subject: Mid Sussex DC - Online Register - Comments for Planning Application
DM/24/2214

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

Comments were submitted at 29/10/2024 7:21 PM.

Application Summary

Address: Lingworth 17 Oathall Road Haywards Heath West Sussex RH16 3EG

Proposal: Change of use from dwelling (Use Class C3) to care home (Use Class C2) including erection of side and rear extensions to the main building and roof extension above existing garage to the coach house.

Case Officer: Andrew Watt

[Click for further information](#)

Customer Details

Address: 21 Oathall Road Haywards Heath

Comments Details

Commenter Type: Neighbour or general public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Reasons for comment:

Comments: I strongly OPPOSE the application for the following reasons:

1. Overdevelopment of 2 historic properties in the Haywards Heath Conservation Area, both of which overlook ancient woodland in Clair Park, also part of the Conservation Area. This woodland comprises many rare specimen trees, a diversity of birds and other wildlife including a very rare white squirrel. It is also the site of the historic Battle of Haywards Heath in 1642. Both 17 and 17A Oathall Road have been the subject of at least 7 Refused planning applications to develop the site since 2002 which culminated in an emphatic Dismissal on Appeal by the Planning Inspectorate, citing the unique environmental value of the Conservation Area and its importance in the town's heritage, public amenity and tourist appeal. See Planning Applications 2002-2007.
2. The plans to expand 17A the Coach House would create loss of amenity and privacy to neighbouring properties 19 and 21 with 6 windows overlooking gardens and bedroom windows. The current proposed application directly contravenes the amendments by the County Architect to reduce the size and impact of the Coach House garage conversion in 2011 - See

3. Increased lighting would also be intrusive to residents in neighbouring properties and create unacceptable light pollution for the wildlife in the adjacent ancient woodland of Clair Park, in particular the biodiversity of owls, nocturnal birds and bats.
4. The ground floor extension to replace the swimming pool in the main house 17 Lingworth would need to be constructed in similar materials with a low pitched or hip roof to remain in keeping with the Conservation Area and to ensure that no further storeys were added in the future. Previous applications from 2002-2005 proposing development above ground floor height have all been refused as they severely impacted adjacent properties and were not in keeping with the Conservation Area.
5. Disruption to drainage of surface water is a very real problem for properties downhill from 17 Lingworth and 17A The Coach House. As the land has become overdeveloped up the hill (notably at Lingworth, Adelaide House, Wellington and Bletchingly), the surface water is not draining away properly, causing increased flooding of neighbouring gardens and property at a lower level down Oathall Road, particularly at adjacent properties numbers 19 and 21.
6. The change of use to a care home is questionable as there are already at least 4 care/nursing homes in Oathall Road, some of which have vacancies at this time. Is a fifth home really necessary?
7. Furthermore, the plans show insufficient private parking places which would imply further parking on the road. Bearing in mind the impact it would have on the road in terms of additional traffic congestion and parking problems in an already crowded street, I object to this extra disruption and burden on council tax payers and County Council Highway funds.

In summary, the proposed application would have an unacceptable impact on neighbouring residential properties, Oathall Road and the Haywards Heath Conservation Area as a whole, and I heartily invite the Planning Officers and Councillors to REFUSE the application.

Yours faithfully



Kind regards