

Steve Ashdown

From: planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk
Sent: 08 January 2024 07:04
To: Steve Ashdown
Subject: Mid Sussex DC - Online Register - Comments for Planning Application DM/23/2867

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

Comments were submitted at 08/01/2024 7:04 AM.

Application Summary

Address:	Land East Of Ansty Way Cuckfield Bypass Cuckfield West Sussex
Proposal:	Change of use of farmland and woodland to parkland reserve to include public access and instigation of long-term management and rewilding regime, including establishment of pedestrian and cycle tracks, with new pedestrian and cycle access points off Cuckfield Road to the south and Staplefield Road to the north. Proposals to include the addition of two wooden viewing platforms and two hides. Sports pitches at Beech Farm Field to remain in sports use.
Case Officer:	Stephen Ashdown

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Customer Details

Address: C1, newbury lane cuckfield west sussex

Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Neighbour or general public
Stance:	Customer objects to the Planning Application
Reasons for comment:	
Comments:	To whom it may concern, I object to the proposed 'country park' on grounds that it will take land that is currently in agricultural use, and turn it into a 'park land'. I am a land worker in Cuckfield, we farm vegetables on the highly fertile Sussex Green sand - a geological strip of soil that spans areas of the weald. This soil is extremely suited to vegetable production and has provided the local community with healthy nutritious fruit and veg for generations. The two areas of land that fairfax wishes to develop are both Sussex clay soil, as far as I know... however the soil make-up should be explored and determined by an agronomist or geologist or at least someone involved in growing soil-based foods BEFORE it

is deemed a 'country park' and therefore no longer eligible for agricultural use. The food system in the UK we currently all rely on is unsustainable. The climate crisis and our reliance on the majority of our food being imported is a model we should all be questioning and safeguarding unpolluted land and soil for future generations to use for food production; this, I believe, should be a concern on everyones minds... Once land ceases to be used for agricultural purposes, it becomes much easier to subsequently develop: concrete gets poured, compaction occurs, biodiversity is loss, top soil runs off and is lost etc. Development of this type is shortsighted. I believe keeping the land around Cuckfield and Ansty as it is, is a safer bet.

In addition, the Fairfax proposal, in terms of access to the countryside, gives local people nothing they don't already have in terms of access to the countryside and its enjoyment.

Thank you.

Kind regards