

From: planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk <planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 21 December 2025 14:16:25 UTC+00:00
To: "Susan Dubberley" <susan.dubberley@midsussex.gov.uk>
Subject: Mid Sussex DC - Online Register - Comments for Planning Application
DM/25/3132

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Although our offices and phone lines are closed for the Christmas period from 4pm on 24th December 2025 and reopening on Monday 5th January 2026, most of our services can be accessed online through our [website](#).

All emails will be responded to on our return on 5th January.

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

Comments were submitted at 21/12/2025 2:16 PM.

Application Summary

Address:	Marlow House 107 High Street Lindfield Haywards Heath West Sussex RH16 2HR
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Proposal:	Retrospective planning permission for a variation to the scheme approved under DM/22/3694, incorporating some reinstatement works.
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Case Officer:	Susan Dubberley
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[Click for further information](#)

Customer Details

Address:	Everydens 109 High Street Lindfield
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Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Neighbour or general public
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Stance:	Customer made comments in support of the Planning Application
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Reasons for comment:	
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Comments:

We strongly support this application, and believe MSDC should speedily confirm Approval. We also ask that the following points should be given further consideration.

Surely it is in everybody's interests that people are encouraged to take on the complex and costly restoration of Lindfield's Listed Buildings, and Planners need to be realistic and flexible with limitations and restrictions they may wish to impose. Unless SUBSTANTIAL and RECKLESS harm has/will be incurred, during the restoration of a Listed Building, then a sensible and constructive interpretation of Planning Policies is both necessary and wholly appropriate.

Both Parties - (MSDC and House Owners) - have responsibilities here to make this approach work. We believe Mr and Mrs Dougall have fully acknowledged their shortfalls in complying with agreed Permissions, and have consequently demonstrated sensible and constructive approaches to sensibly move matters forward.

MSDC officers have confirmed that no Substantial Harm has been caused, in the restoration of Marlow House so it is surely time now to "move on" and approve these changes.

We believe Planners also need to place greater emphasis on the reality that we live in the 21st Century, and that the facilities, - post refurbishment - need to incorporate the needs and expectations of the current generation. These buildings cannot be "Museums", but rightly need to be in character with their age and surrounding buildings - as is the case here. Mr and Mrs Dougall have created a home that not only absolutely retains the full character of a historic building, and its setting but also provides the facilities and amenities they should reasonably be allowed to enjoy. We strongly believe that they have achieved an admirable and acceptable balance in this respect.

It is also on Public Record that comments have recently been made by a MSDC Planning Official that "For the most part, (the works) have been undertaken in accordance with agreed plans" Surely therefore it is now time to confirm agreement to those areas of non-compliance, and to allow Mr and Mrs Dougall to implement the Changes, as they have offered to do. Those reinstatements can only serve to enhance the Heritage Value of this property.

Finally - a significant number of people have demonstrated their support for what Mr and Mrs Dougall have already accomplished, - not only close neighbours, but also numerous other residents further afield, full support from The Parish Council, Lindfield Preservation Society, and notable Awards - including the Sussex Heritage House of the Year. It is clear that a wider public interest has been served in terms of this magnificent restoration, and we

urge MSDC to accept this retrospective Planning Permission, and allow Mr and Mrs Dougall to finalise and implement the changes they are proposing.

John and Elaine Higgins

Kind regards