

From: planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk <planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 19 March 2025 23:39:12 UTC+00:00
To: "Joanne Fisher" <joanne.fisher@midsussex.gov.uk>
Subject: Mid Sussex DC - Online Register - Comments for Planning Application
DM/25/0445

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

Comments were submitted at 19/03/2025 11:39 PM.

Application Summary

Address:	Land At Colwell Farm Lewes Road Haywards Heath West Sussex
Proposal:	Outline application with all matters reserved except for access, for up to 80 dwellings with associated landscaping, open space, infrastructure and vehicular and pedestrian accesses.
Case Officer:	Joanne Fisher

[Click for further information](#)

Customer Details

Address:	Silver Birches, Fox Hill Village Haywards Heath
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Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Neighbour or general public
Stance:	Customer objects to the Planning Application
Reasons for comment:	
Comments:	I can only comment on what I am aware of from new housing development sites surrounding me. Yes, I sound like a 'nimby' but bear in mind I once lived, surrounded by green fields, with no apparent hope of planning permission being granted. Sewage shipped off new housing estates in tankers. Fresh water shipped onto new housing estates in tankers. Sites with new houses that spewed sewage from their toilets due to lack of

water pressure. Construction site waste running into the Ancient Woodland with no environmental protection at all. Sustainable drainage ponds empty whilst adjacent (and downstream) public bridleway is flooded thigh deep. Ward councillors insisting that no traffic calming would be permissible on B2112 as a major through road for ambulances from PRH to RSCH and yet when adequate water pressure on a new housing development is 'overlooked', the whole road can be closed for five months. To add insult to injury, our, then MP, is filmed praising south east water for finishing a job that shouldn't have needed doing in the first place. Construction taking place outside of hours and even over the Jubilee Bank Holiday. Public footpaths closed, supposedly for a maximum of a year and still to be reopened five years later. And that's because a major issue is that these 'legitimate' developers do not bother to adhere to their Construction Management Plans (CMPs or CEMPs as they appear now) and holding regular resident liaison meetings was one stipulation. Honest communication and two-way conversation may go some way to alleviating local resident stress.

If the same strategy had been applied by our local councillors towards the residents they were meant to represent, we might not be looking at quite so many houses before the associated vital infrastructure was able to catch up. Now it feels like the housing permissions are spiralling while the infrastructure is receding with adverse consequences for the local population and deadly consequences for our natural environment.

The Haywards Heath Neighbourhood Plan (HHNP) was adopted in 2016, voted in by approximately 9% of the town's population. The population is expanding and the adoption of the HHNP is now underpinned by a mere 7% of the town's population. It is this plan that laid out areas of land in (and outside) the town on which housing developments could be built. Crucially, it also recognised that the traffic congestion through the town was unacceptable and that the town's infrastructure was already falling behind the needs of the population. The HHNP requires that it is 'monitored' annually and 'reviewed' every five years.

The review was due in 2021 and has not yet been carried out despite being a requirement voted for by the residents of Haywards Heath. In my opinion, a comprehensive review by a council ready to engage more than 7% of the population might conclude that traffic congestion through the town, including the 'relief' road

from the Cuckfield roundabout to the Birch Hotel, is much worse. Infrastructure has fallen even further behind the needs of the current population. Yet housing developers continue to build, apparently unrestricted, even increasing the housing numbers on many sites.

Like a warped version of 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' - Haywards Heath - you won't find a clear road through it; you won't get over the lack of buses to it; you might not catch a train in it; you will be underwhelmed by the town centre and if you're fortunate enough to be able to take a walk anywhere, only then might you slip under the endless sets of temporary traffic lights. If you do 'catch' anything don't expect to find a doctor to sort it out for you any time soon!

Kind regards