

16 Kleinwort Close
Haywards Heath
West Sussex
RH16 4XG
22 January 2026

H Evans Esq
Planning Officer
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS
Letter by email to: hamish.evans@midsussex.gov.uk

Dear Mr Evans,

AGE UK Lamb House 2 Kleinwort Close Haywards Heath: Application DM/25/3273

I am writing to challenge AGE UK's application to use part of its premises as a nursery.

Until AGE UK allowed a pre-school nursery to occupy its 'garden room', that accommodation and the separate AGE UK garden offered activities and space for older people. This reflected:

- AGE UK's aims which include helping people to stay healthy and independent in older life,
- that the Lamb House site was gifted to AGE UK for the benefit of older people,
- MSDC's description in planning documentation of Lamb House as a community building let to AGE UK for the provision of services to older people living in the wider community.

Recent construction of retirement housing in Haywards Heath has encouraged older people into the area which has increased the need for activities aimed at the older age group. Instead, and without Planning Permission, AGE UK has allowed Kiddie Capers to open a nursery and to use its garden, which has reduced the facilities available to older people.

The garden runs alongside and a few feet from retirement houses in Kleinwort Close. My experience is of continuous uncontrolled screaming and shouting when the children are in the garden. The volume is such that I can no longer enjoy morning coffee/lunch/afternoon tea on my patio with friends. I can no longer do gardening, even wearing headphones. I can no longer open my windows. I could not have envisaged this when choosing a retirement house next to an organisation which exists to support the well-being of older people.

Perhaps in a mixed age community, residents might be away from home regularly so that a nursery and its noise might be less intrusive. Here, the older residents are more likely to be at home and unable to escape the prolonged screaming and shouting in the AGE UK garden.

In the nursery's early days, I visited AGE UK three times to ask if the nursery could be encouraged to control the screaming. On each occasion I was told by AGE UK representatives that the nursery is nothing to do with AGE UK, that AGE UK has no responsibility for it and that I should raise any concerns with the owners of the nursery. I know, however, that attempts to engage with the nursery owners have failed.

Neither AGE UK nor Kiddie Capers have shown interest in or a willingness to engage with residents about the nursery, which has continued to operate without Planning Permission and without concern for its impact on residents.

If MSDC grants permission for the nursery, I ask that its activities be restricted to the 'garden room' so that the life-blighting, mental health threatening noise in the garden will stop, and so that older people can once again use the AGE UK garden donated specifically for their benefit.

Easily accessible to the nursery is Beech Hurst Gardens and other green and wooded areas so that loss of the garden need not mean a loss of outdoor activity for the children.

Yours sincerely

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