

From: planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk <planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 10 June 2026 12:26:21 UTC+01:00
To: "Caroline Grist" <caroline.grist@midsussex.gov.uk>
Subject: Mid Sussex DC - Online Register - Comments for Planning Application
DM/26/1315

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

Comments were submitted at 10/06/2026 12:26 PM.

Application Summary

Address:	Land West Of Gatesmead Wickham Way Haywards Heath West Sussex
Proposal:	Proposed 49 new homes together with open space and associated infrastructure.
Case Officer:	Caroline Grist

[Click for further information](#)

Customer Details

Address:	43 Sunte Close 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 am writing in objection to the proposed development on Land West Of Gatesmead Wickham Way Haywards Heath West Sussex. Wickham Fields is not 'just a field' it is an important resource to access nature for local people, a key place to safely let dogs off the lead, a place for older children and teenagers to play without the risk of traffic and an important natural environment for many species and a large number of mature and very beautiful trees.

I have been using Wickham Fields for recreation purposes since late 1970s and, in particular, from 1980 onwards when my family moved into my present address in Sunte Close. As a teenager in the 1980s I used the fields as a social meeting space with friends. In my later teenage years, I used the field as a way to take what we now understand as mental health breaks, a quick way to access nature. My parents would often take short walks in Wickham Fields. In the ten years I have been back in Sunte Close I have used the fields on a frequent basis to walk my dogs. The fields were also the last place my dad was fit enough to walk to before his death. The walk over the fields, up to the golf course and back, is a long established and frequently taken walk.

I understand that there is a Definitive Map Modification Order application regarding the main footpaths over this site which is currently marked as undetermined. As stated above, I, and many others, have used these path for at least 46 years. No planning application should be decided before the status of this well-established path of community use is still undetermined.

These 11 acres of open grassland are vital for local wildlife. I myself have observed Slow Worms (protected species), Red Kites, Buzzards and woodpeckers. I believe I have seen the scat of badgers and the entrance to a fox's den. In the summer the fields are full of a wide range of flowering grasses and other plants and this sustains an array of insect life. Insect life is the foundation stone of biodiversity. This range of wildlife cannot up sticks and move directly to the north (as if that would be possible) as it is hemmed in by the environmentally controlled lawns of Haywards Heath Golf Course. No development should even be considered without a full, independent survey.

The next nearest similar space is at Bluntswood. Many of the people I meet in Wickham Fields will not be able to travel there without the use of a car. The Bluntswood carpark is already full at many times of the day.

As far as dog walking is concerned it is too far for me to walk to Bluntswood on a 'working' day (I do not drive). There is Clair Park, but I, for one, cannot take my dog to a noisy environment and with the current and planned work on Perrymount Road; the Aldi, followed by the new Clair Hall development, I will have to give Clair Park a miss. There is Hickman's Lane, but this is not extensive, and not at all safe for letting dogs off the lead.

As a resident of Sunte Close I also have grave concerns about the potential flooding risk should 49 houses be built on Wickham Way. Since the building of the Sunte Park development I have seen increasing amounts of surface water on the road in Sunte Close. This is of particular concern as in recent years in very rainy periods water has come almost to my door. We had to take the decision a couple of years ago to install drainage across the front

of our drive which cost in excess of £2,000; but there are still many times where this barely takes care of the volume of water coming down the road. I cannot believe that adding more non-permeable surface in the locality is not going to make this worse.

Other infrastructure concerns also come to mind. South-East Water is unable to keep up with existing customer demand as recent water stoppages in Hurstpierpoint and other localities have proved. How will South East Water deal with additional demands for tap water?

We are registered with Dolphin's Practice and have found it increasingly difficult to get appointments in recent years; when we do get an appointment it is likely that the GP is running well behind (I waited 50 minutes past my appointment time last time I attended for a GP appointment). The Practice is, I believe, doing everything it can but is drowning under sheer weight of numbers. From the reports of friends and neighbours other local practices are under similar pressure.

Finally, I would like to reiterate that this is not 'just a field'. It is a well-used community resource with a rich and sustained level of wildlife and plants. It is where we have walked with our families, with our friends and with our dogs for many decades through all weathers.

Kind regards