

From: planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk <planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 10 June 2026 16:33:22 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 4:33 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:	30 Barnmead 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:	DM/26/1315: Land north of Old Wickham Lane and West of Gatesmead & Birchen Lane Haywards Heath Crest Nicholson Proposed 49 new homes together with open spaces and associated infrastructure. For the reasons and concerns listed below, I strongly object to this application. General

I understand that this 'plot' of land has been included in the local plan by order of 'delegated powers' from Government, a previous housing planning permission having been rejected way back in 1974.

From the submitted design documentation it is clear that the houses planned are 'upper market' designed for those moving down from London rather than for those with a local housing need, despite the regulated 'social housing' allocation.

Reference should be made to the development at Penland Farm and the application made for development at Sugworth Farm Development for further confirmation that housing design is made for profit NOT a genuine local housing need .

Flooding and Surface Water

This area of Haywards Heath (Penland Farm, Sugworth Farm and 'Wickham House Fields' is well known for flooding and large amounts of surface water. The Fields in question are frequently a 'quagmire' making walking difficult, this development with the increase in 'tarmac' will only add to the flooding problems unless very stringent controls are put in place to cope, bearing in mind the increase in extreme weather patterns that we are experiencing.

Local Infrastructure Capacity

It is well documented that the local infrastructure is beyond capacity (Healthcare, Education, Transport (Traffic) and especially Water. All the roads servicing Haywards Heath were originally country roads and this is still the case with Portsmouth Lane like so many a fast 'rat run' posing a danger to pedestrians and cyclist alike; the addition of these houses would only worsen an already dangerous traffic scenario similar to that experienced on the Balcombe Road.

South East Water have already expressed that they are beyond capacity with a recent request that, due to the hot weather, we restrict our usage of water to the absolute minimum; cause?, their inability to pump sufficient water!. This clearly demonstrates that adding more housing will only cause yet more pressure on an overworked system.

Loss of open Green Space and Biodiversity

My wife and I have lived in this area for 50years and in this time have seen all our green spaces being eroded in the name of the 'need for housing' (mostly green-field spaces, very few 'brown' sites).

To this day I can remember cows in these fields! We have walked these fields with our children and grandchildren and the fields have provided relaxation, solitude and a play area for children for decades. The fields are a valuable 'green' resource which should be preserved for generations to come.

During the COVID lockdown green spaces like this provided much

needed exercise and 'mental boosts' for both adults and children, the loss of this area would remove permanently a valuable green space which could never be replaced; no amount of reintroducing 'biodiversity' will compensate for the genuine original.

These fields have been left fallow for decades, allowing them to develop a wide range of diverse flora and fauna. To this day we regularly (three times a week) walk these fields and frequently see all types of wild birds (kites, buzzards woodpeckers etc), along with varied flowers and trees; even deer have been seen.

This is one of the last, if not THE last remaining 'green field' sites on this side of the town and the loss of this area would be a travesty especially with so many green spaces being 'gobbled up'. The view from the gate in Old Wickham Lane is stunning and to think of that being blocked by large houses

Undetermined Right of Way (DMMO 3/22)

The site map clearly shows many footpaths traversing the site and again for 50 years these have been regularly walked by generations of people looking for fresh air, exercise and dog walking. The DMMO has been outstanding since 2021, the public right of way unresolved thus I feel that this planning application could prejudice the route and with houses built the footpaths would be irrevocably destroyed.

See above also.

Access via Gatesmead

Gatesmead is a quiet, narrow residential road which is the only access means to this proposed development and is not suitable as an access road to a development of the nature. Concerns over vehicle numbers, refuse vehicles, school runs etc have not been addressed; especially as Gatesmead itself generated traffic into the very busy, congested and narrow Portsmouth Lane.

To make this viable a roundabout would have to be constructed at this junction in a similar manner to that at the bottom of Hanlye Lane!

Harm to Heritage Assets

There are two Heritage Assets which are affected by this proposal, Wickham Farmhouse (late-16th-century, c.1580) and Sunte House (Queen Anne, c.1700s). These are both Grade II* listed, (partly due to their countryside setting).

The applicants consultants acknowledge that the proposal could affect the significance of these two properties.

Summary

All the above demonstrates that this application should be rejected as the planned housing does not meet a genuine local need, is not suitable for the reasons given above and was, in the past, excluded from all the various town plans.

The site in fact is a valuable resource of local 'well-being' and should be protected from development at all costs.

Kind regards