

Sarah Valentine

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 August 2026 21:50
To: planninginfo
Subject: OBJECTION - Application DM/26/1671

[REDACTED]
Planning Department,
Mid Sussex District Council,
Oaklands, Oaklands Road,
Haywards Heath,
West Sussex.
RH16 1SS

9th August 2026
FOA: The Planning Officer (Andy Watt)

Dear Mr Watt,

FORMAL REPRESENTATION - OBJECTION - Application DM/26/1671
Non-Material amendment to DM/26/1671 Land to the East of Wineham Lane, Battery Energy Storage System.

We have read the latest documentation for the above non-material amendment and we write to object to Element's Green Limited's application under s.96A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (TCPA) for the 'non-material' amendment to the original application DM/21/2276 which was granted permission on 5th September 2024.

We have concerns about the proposal DM/26/1671, the substantial modifications are different than the original application; the company has changed, there are significant technological advancements and changes in the number of BESS and site layout, fire and water storage arrangements, emergency access and a proposed new acoustic fence.

There is no evidence that the reduced number of BESS will reduce the impact of this new proposal such as the noise, light pollution, fire safety and indeed the acoustic fence as Elements Green have shared little detail, let alone the impact on the rural environment and character of the area.

We are concerned as there has not been enough scrutiny, or rigorous testing and we argue that these are material changes. Let alone scrutiny that the original application may be environmentally damaging. Horsham District Council turned down a similar scheme in Kent Street in 2024 that was deemed as unsuitable for the area. Surely the same should apply to Wineham Lane? The new amendments should be reviewed afresh, not as 'non-material' elements.

The new field of BESS is significantly different in 2 years, many of the environmental issues would need to be re-evaluated in the light of the new proposed amendments.

Fire Safety is a major concern. The proposal as it stands is committed to retrospective compliance and needs to be fully assessed against the guidance in the 'National Fire Chiefs Guidance 2026' before a final decision is made.

Placing BESS in a residential area where there are wooden structures in a country park, opposite houses and with unsuitable infrastructure, surrounded by dry tinder baked grass, hedges and trees,

seems irresponsible. Our climate continues to rise in temperature, therefore increasing the fire risk and the fact this area has low water pressure, would hinder the Fire Brigades ability to cope in the event of an emergency. We have already witnessed across the UK how wildfires have devastated environments and housing this year in recent weeks and difficult to get under control. We are concerned how a number of fire engines could respond to an emergency in Wineham Lane, the lanes in this area are very unsuitable for fire engines to navigate. Our communities are very vulnerable due to our proximity to the 400KV substation and the risk posed by this planning application. We believe that this planning application is sited incorrectly and unsympathetically.

We request that Mid Sussex District Council does NOT approve application DM/26/1671 as a 'non-material' amendment for the above stated reasons.

Yours Sincerely,

