

Caroline Grist

From: planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk
Sent: 20 June 2026 16:29
To: Caroline Grist
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 20/06/2026 4:28 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:	33 College Road 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:	Dear Sir/Madam, I wish to formally object to the proposed development of 49 dwellings on the land west of Gatesmead, Wickham Way, Haywards Heath. This site forms part of an established area of open countryside and green space that makes an important contribution to the character, appearance and environmental quality of the locality. The land is regularly used by local residents for informal recreation, including walking, running and dog walking, providing a valued and accessible natural amenity. The loss of this open space would result in significant harm to the rural setting of the area and would erode the transition between the built-up area and the surrounding countryside. The proposed development would also have an adverse impact on biodiversity and wildlife habitats. The site currently provides a natural environment that supports a range of flora and fauna, and the urbanisation of this land would inevitably diminish its ecological value. The

permanent loss of greenfield land should only be permitted where there is a clear and overriding justification, which does not appear to have been demonstrated.

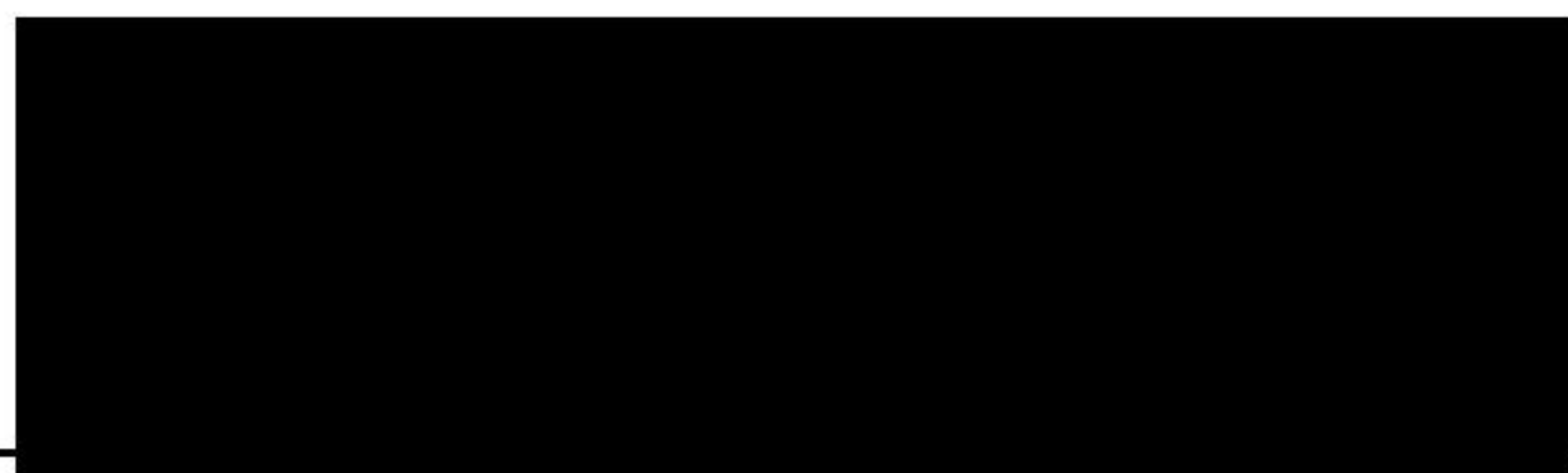
In addition, there are serious concerns regarding drainage and flood risk. The introduction of extensive areas of hard surfacing and built development has the potential to increase surface water run-off, placing additional pressure on existing drainage infrastructure and increasing the risk of flooding and water management issues affecting neighbouring properties and roads, including Wickham Way, College Road and surrounding residential areas.

The development would also place further strain on local infrastructure and community services. Schools, GP surgeries, dental services and utility networks in the area are already operating under significant pressure. The addition of 49 new dwellings would increase demand on these facilities, and it is not evident that adequate provision has been made to mitigate these impacts.

Furthermore, the proposed house designs appear unsympathetic to the established character of the surrounding area. The locality contains a number of historic and architecturally significant properties, including listed buildings and traditional Victorian and Turner-style homes. The submitted designs lack the quality, character and architectural distinctiveness necessary to complement their surroundings and would therefore fail to preserve or enhance the existing townscape and local sense of place.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Council refuse planning permission for this application. The proposal would result in the unnecessary loss of valued countryside, harm to landscape character and biodiversity, increased pressure on local infrastructure, potential drainage concerns, and development that is not in keeping with the established character of the area.

Thank you for taking my comments into consideration.

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Kind regards