

From: planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk
Sent: 16 June 2026 13:41
To: planninginfo
Subject: Mid Sussex DC - Online Register - Comments for Planning Application DM/25/2223

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

Comments were submitted at 16/06/2026 1:40 PM.

Application Summary

Address: Juhring And Hobbs Field At Saint Hill Manor Saint Hill Road East Grinstead West Sussex

Proposal: Change of use of vacant land to event area for use with installation of permanent infrastructure and reinforced ground surfacing (cellular paving grid) to facilitate the erection of annual marquee structures including ground level alterations, wash block and toilets, generator enclosure and concrete ring together with the erection and dismantling of the temporary marquee structure themselves (for a total maximum period of 84 days per year) and overflow car parking for the Church and neighbouring sports clubs consisting of reinforced ground surfacing (cellular paving grid) for up to 683 car spaces (comprising up to 113 cars (Area A) for no more than 30 days per annum, 313 cars (Areas A & B) for no more than 13 days per year and up to 683 cars (Areas A, B & C) for no more than 7 days per year), construction of a new access and internal road, sustainable surface water and foul drainage provision, associated landscaping and ecological enhancements. (Further information received 28th May)

Case Officer: Stephen Ashdown

[Click for further information](#)

Customer Details

Address: Felbridge Hotel Felbridge

Comments Details

Commenter Type: Business or other organisation

Stance: Customer made comments in support of the Planning Application

Reasons for comment:

Comments: Planning Application Reference: DM/25/2223
Site: Juhring and Hobbs Field, Saint Hill Manor, Saint Hill Road, East Grinstead

I write in support of the above planning application, submitted on behalf of the Church of Scientology Religious Education College.

I am the Hotel Manager at the Felbridge Hotel & Spa, located on London Road, East Grinstead - one of the closest full-service hotels to Saint Hill Manor. I therefore have a direct and informed perspective on the relationship between events held at Saint Hill and the wider local economy, and I believe this application deserves the council's full and careful support.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Large-scale events at Saint Hill Manor generate measurable and meaningful economic activity in East Grinstead. Our hotel - along with numerous other accommodation providers, restaurants, and local businesses in the area - consistently experiences a significant uplift in occupancy and footfall during the periods in which events are held at the site. For a town of East Grinstead's scale, this kind of demand is genuinely valuable. It supports jobs, sustains businesses, and keeps our local hospitality sector active at times of year when trade can be quiet.

The proposed development, by providing proper, structured infrastructure for events and parking, would help ensure that this economic activity can continue - and be managed responsibly - for years to come.

COMMUNITY AND SHARED BENEFIT

The proposed overflow car parking is not solely for the benefit of the applicant. The plans explicitly provide shared parking for neighbouring sports clubs and community users, which addresses a genuine and long-standing access issue in the area. Providing up to 683 well-managed car spaces in a structured, phased format is a proportionate and community-minded response to the pressures that large gatherings can place on surrounding roads and residential streets.

Rather than displacing the problem, this proposal solves it. Designated, purpose-built parking reduces the risk of informal or unsafe parking on local roads - a real concern raised by residents during previous events - and improves the experience for everyone using the site and its surroundings.

DESIGN AND ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY

The use of permeable geocell (cellular paving grid) surfacing rather than conventional hardstanding is a thoughtful and technically sound choice for a site of this character. It preserves natural drainage, reduces surface water runoff, and allows vegetation to establish - maintaining the visual openness of the land for the majority of the year. The temporary nature of the marquee structures, limited to a maximum of 84 days annually, means the fields retain their rural character and are not permanently altered in appearance.

The inclusion of ecological enhancements and sensitive landscaping further demonstrates that this is not a scheme that has been designed with only short-term practicality in mind. It reflects a genuine effort to integrate development into the surrounding environment.

TRAFFIC AND ACCESS

The construction of a new access road and defined internal routing will substantially improve how vehicles enter, circulate, and leave the site during events. In the absence of proper infrastructure, large events inevitably create pressure on surrounding roads. This application directly addresses that risk through structured design - and the phased approach to activating different parking areas based on event size shows a sophisticated and measured understanding of traffic management.

CONCLUSION

Saint Hill Manor is one of East Grinstead's most significant and distinctive landmarks. It draws visitors from across the UK and internationally, and its events bring real, tangible benefit to the local area. This application provides a responsible, well-considered framework to support that activity in a way that is sustainable, community-aware, and environmentally sensitive.

As a hospitality professional serving guests in this town, I am confident that this development will be a positive addition - and I encourage the council to look favourably upon it.

Yours sincerely,



Kind regards