

From: Planning@horsham.gov.uk
Sent: 28 January 2026 21:32
To: Planning
Subject: Comments for Planning Application DC/25/2079

Categories: Comments Received

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

Comments were submitted at 28/01/2026 9:31 PM.

Application Summary

Address:	Cotlands Paddock Horsham Road Cowfold West Sussex RH13 8AH
Proposal:	Use of land for the stationing of 4no. static caravans for (Gypsy and Traveller) residential purposes and associated day rooms.
Case Officer:	Shazia Penne

[Click for further information](#)

Customer Details

Address:	7 Oakapple Close Cowfold
----------	--------------------------

Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Member of the Public
Stance:	Customer objects to the Planning Application
Reasons for comment:	- Highway Access and Parking - Loss of General Amenity - Other - Overdevelopment
Comments:	Reasons for turning down planning application at Cotland Paddock, Horsham Road, Cowfold, RH13 8AH It goes against existing policies. HDC planning framework policies Policy 23 Strategic Policy: Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation 1b. The site is served by a safe and convenient vehicular and pedestrian access.

The proposal should not result in significant hazard to other road users;

This greenfield site is on a main A road with a 60mph speed limit opposite access to a nursing home (staff vehicles, deliveries and visitors all coming and going) and 5 other properties including farm machinery on a blind corner with incline, where there have been many accidents including three fatalities. There is no pavement and bus stops are under review due to questions about viability due to safety concerns. Homelands Nursing Home had a previous application refused due to unsafe access. Many of the visitors to Homelands are elderly with lower reaction speeds.

Vehicles coming from north cannot see proposed access till almost on it due to rise in road. Vehicles leaving proposed access (Inc large touring caravans) cannot see to the right. It will greatly increase the number of vehicles using this dangerous bit of road as the number of daily uses from the proposed site could be as many as 240.

When approaching in a car/large touring caravan from the south, anyone turning into the proposed site will cause cars to suddenly brake as this is a blind bend.

1c.

The site can be properly serviced and is supplied with essential services, such as water, power, sewerage and drainage, and waste disposal.

Don't think this has been adequately assessed. They talk about a soakaway into a drainage field, but don't indicate which field, possibly not theirs. The fields here are on a slope down to the Cowfold stream, which then goes into a privately owned pond before heading towards Cowfold, where local children play in it in the summer. They do not state how many people the waste system will be able to deal with.

1e.

The development will not have an unacceptable impact on the character and appearance of the landscape and the amenity of neighbouring properties, and is sensitively designed to mitigate any impact on its surroundings.

This will have a direct impact on the character and appearance of the landscape, especially when viewed from the adjoining footpath and will directly affect the 4 heritage neighbouring properties. - the cumulative heritage impact is unacceptable. (Brook Place Grade II* and Littlebrook Grade II not mentioned in application)

Policy 24

Strategic Policy: Environmental Protection

3.

Maintain or improve the environmental quality of any watercourses, groundwater and drinking water supplies, and prevents contaminated run-off to surface water sewers;

This could contaminate the local stream which runs down to Cowfold.

7.

Ensure that the cumulative impact of all relevant committed developments is appropriately assessed.

There is already planning approved for 35 houses between here and the edge of Cowfold.

Policy 33

Development Principles

In order to conserve and enhance the natural and built environment developments shall be required to:

1.
Make efficient use of land, and prioritise the use of previously developed land and buildings whilst respecting any constraints that exist;

Not efficient use of agricultural land. Why not use existing static home sites off Kent street, Honeybridge Lane or Barns Green. Or those suggested in HDC framework plan.

2.
Ensure that it is designed to avoid unacceptable harm to the amenity of occupiers/users of nearby property and land, for example through overlooking or noise, whilst having regard to the sensitivities of surrounding development;

Will have a direct impact on 3 heritage neighbouring properties and will damage the rights of walkers to enjoy the countryside.

4.
Are locally distinctive in character, respect the character of the surrounding area (including its overall setting, townscape features, views and green corridors) and, where available and applicable, take account of the recommendations/policies of the relevant Design Statements and Character Assessments;

The development does not respect the character of the surrounding area and is not in a locally distinctive character. It sets a precedent which could then be expanded on.

9.
Incorporate measures to reduce any actual or perceived opportunities for crime or antisocial behaviour on the site and in the surrounding area; and create visually attractive frontages where adjoining streets and public spaces, including appropriate windows and doors to assist in the informal surveillance of public areas by occupants of the site;

The existing owners are already using the site as a dumping ground which EH and WSCC are investigating.

Other reasons for planning to be refused....

Ecology Aspect:

Area should be re-assessed by a qualified ecologist for the council re protected and priority species and habitat ...in the accompanying report various bits have been redacted. Why?

Also believe the report is out of date as data only valid till 19/5/25.

We know there are Great Crested Newts at the site and in the surrounding area. There are about 13 ponds in the area which the newts could be using and migrating between. No impact assessment done for GCN, Bats (Inc light pollution affect) [REDACTED] Dormice...Not a very full report as there are also Buzzards and Red Kites in the area. Most of these are Protected Species inc European Protected Species, despite the fact they state on planning application that none exist.

Basis Planning:

The stable block has moved from where planning permission was granted...This is not mentioned in application. It should be re applied for.

There are no dimensions for the Day rooms in the application...this needs to be included.

In the application they state that there is "market housing" on the site....there is no housing on the site, only an old stable. They also state under "non residential floorspace" that there will be no change, but I presume that the dayroom and touring caravans are meant to be non-residential otherwise there is potential for nearly 60 people living here.

They state in the application that there is an existing stable block but there is a huge difference

between a stable used for a rural hobby and a residential development with possibly 12 habitable structures....and the concern that if approved this would then increase.

Fire and rescue services need to be consulted...Water hydrant access/vehicle access???

There is no evidence that the site is connected to Mains water.. It doesn't appear to show a mains pipe on Southern waters maps.

The applicant suggests there are 2 grade II heritage sites affected in fact there are 4. (Brook Place Grade II* and Littlebrook Grade II are not mentioned.

They talk about native hedging in the application, but have already planted a long hedge of non-native species that can be invasive.

No safe access or egress into/out of the site. Current access was only designed for infrequent agricultural access... not this frequency.

The applicant suggests there is a need for 128 new sites, but has no evidence to support this and I believe this is looking till 2040. HDC has already suggested 68 possible sites.

This site is so small it does not contribute to the 'unmet need' of traveller pitches - therefore by virtue of its own proposal, does not have any significance to the overall strategy - a larger site is required - which will actually deliver to that acknowledged unmet need - THIS IS THE WRONG LOCATION!

Whilst there is a 'need' for traveller sites, this proposal produces significant and demonstrable harm to many Horsham DC policies, and therefore does not outweigh the small amount of benefit created thus the conflict created would suggest a refusal of any associated planning permission at this site.

Kind regards

Telephone:

Email: planning@horsham.gov.uk



**Horsham
District
Council**



Horsham District Council, Albery House, Springfield Road, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 2GB

Telephone: 01403 215100 (calls may be recorded) www.horsham.gov.uk Chief Executive: Jane Eaton