

From: Planning@horsham.gov.uk
Sent: 15 September 2026 12:22
To: Planning
Subject: Comments for Planning Application DC/26/1186

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 15/09/2026 12:21 PM.

Application Summary

Address:	Land North of Rectory Lane Ashington West Sussex
Proposal:	Outline Application for redevelopment of the site to provide up to 125 dwellings, access, public open space and associated landscaping, drainage and highways infrastructure with all matters reserved except access.
Case Officer:	Sam Whitehouse

[Click for further information](#)

Customer Details

Address:	Firtree Cottage Billingshurst Road Ashington
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Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Neighbour
Stance:	Customer objects to the Planning Application
Reasons for comment:	- Design - Highway Access and Parking - Loss of General Amenity - Other - Overdevelopment - Privacy Light and Noise - Trees and Landscaping
Comments:	Dear Sir/Madam, I am writing to formally object to planning application DC/26/1186 for up to 125 dwellings on land north of Rectory Lane. Whilst I recognise the need for new housing and am not opposed to appropriate development in Ashington, I am increasingly concerned by the cumulative scale of development being

proposed around the village and the resulting loss of its surrounding countryside.

One of the aspects of Ashington I value most is its rural setting, wildlife and remarkably dark night skies. I am a keen stargazer and regularly use a large telescope from our garden. On a clear night, the quality of the night sky here can be exceptional and, from my own experience, has at times reminded me of the skies I experienced in the Azores.

This is an increasingly valuable characteristic of a rural environment. Development on this scale would introduce additional housing, street lighting, vehicle movements and domestic lighting into what is presently predominantly countryside. I am therefore particularly concerned about the cumulative effects of artificial light on the area's dark skies, rural landscape character and nocturnal wildlife.

More broadly, I am concerned about the progressive loss and fragmentation of countryside and wildlife habitats as multiple sites around Ashington are brought forward for development. These effects cannot sensibly be assessed in isolation when several developments form part of the same wider area.

I also find HDC's previous assessment of the Northern Cluster particularly significant. In 2023, HDC did not recommend the cluster for allocation and identified an estimated housing number of zero, concluding that the cumulative impact upon local services and infrastructure would be "unsustainable" and that development on the scale proposed was "not appropriate to the scale and the status of the village". I would like to understand what has materially changed since that assessment to overcome those concerns.

Ashington has already experienced substantial housing growth, yet remains a village with limited infrastructure. There is no GP surgery, dentist or secondary school, and residents must travel elsewhere for many services. The effect of another 125 homes therefore needs to be considered alongside the other development already built, pending or proposed around the village.

If the wider Northern Cluster is now being considered for substantial development, I believe it is particularly important that HDC assesses it comprehensively, including the cumulative consequences for infrastructure, landscape, biodiversity and dark skies, rather than allowing individual applications to determine the future character of the area incrementally.

For these reasons I strongly object to planning application DC/26/1186 and ask that it is refused.

Kind regards

[Redacted Signature]

Ashington

Kind regards

Telephone:

Email: planning@horsham.gov.uk



**Horsham
District
Council**

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