[redacted]
Sent: 25 April 2026 19:31
[redacted]
Subject: OBJECTION to planning application DC/24/0970 - Proposed Commercial/ Wine Tasting Centre at the Haven

To: Horsham District Council Planning Department

Dear Case Officer,

I am writing to formally object to planning application DC/24/0970. While the vineyard and agricultural building are already present as part of the local farming landscape, I strongly object to the proposed change of use and expansion into a commercial wine tasting and business centre.

The Haven is a uniquely quiet, rural community near Billingshurst, and this proposal represents a significant threat to its character for the following reasons:

1. Unacceptable Impact on Weekend Tranquility

The application makes it clear that the majority of visitors are expected during weekends and bank holidays. These are precisely the times when local residents expect to enjoy the "quiet enjoyment" of their homes and the surrounding countryside. Transforming a quiet agricultural site into a commercial hospitality destination will introduce a constant stream of visitors, car doors slamming, and social noise during what should be the most peaceful times of the week. This is a direct contravention of HDPF Policy 33, which protects the amenity of existing residents.

2. Inappropriate Commercialization of The Haven

The Haven is a sensitive rural hamlet, not a commercial hub. While the existing building serves a legitimate farming purpose, its conversion into a "destination" venue for wine tasting and business use shifts the site from agriculture to hospitality. This intensification of use is entirely out of character with the remote nature of this locality.

3. Highway Safety and Access via Narrow Lanes

The lanes serving The Haven are narrow, winding, and often lack passing places. They are totally unsuitable for the increased traffic volume associated with a commercial attraction. The influx of weekend visitors—who are often unfamiliar with these single-track roads—poses a serious safety risk to the residents, horse riders, walkers, and cyclists who use these lanes for recreation.

4. Noise and Light Pollution

In the still environment of The Haven, noise carries for great distances. The transition from a quiet agricultural storage site to a licensed commercial venue will introduce levels of noise and light pollution that are currently alien to this area, harming both the local community and the biodiversity of the Arun Valley.

5. Water Neutrality and Environmental Concerns

The applicant has not sufficiently demonstrated that this commercial venture will meet the strict Water Neutrality requirements for the Arun Valley. Moving from agricultural use to a hospitality venue with public facilities creates a significant and unnecessary new demand on local water resources.

Conclusion

The vineyard is already a functional agricultural entity; there is no planning necessity to turn it into a commercial hub that disrupts the weekend peace of local residents. I urge the Council to protect the unique character of The Haven and refuse this application for a change of use.

Yours faithfully,

[redacted]

Cousins Farm

The Haven

Billingshurst

RH14 9BE