WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION

TO:	Horsham District Council FAO: Bethan Tinning
FROM:	Highways, WSCC
DATE:	04/06/2025
LOCATION:	The Haven House, Sedgwick Lane, Horsham, RH13 6QE
SUBJECT:	DC/25/0818 Prior Notification for Change of Use of Agricultural Building to 1no. dwellinghouse.
DATE OF SITE VISIT:	N/A
RECOMMENDATION:	Advice
S106 CONTRIBUTION TOTAL:	£N/A

This application has been dealt with in accordance with the Development Control Scheme protocol for small scale proposals.

This proposal seeks prior approval for the change of use from agricultural building to residential to form a single dwelling. The site is located off Sedgwick Lane, an unclassified road subject to a speed restriction of 40 mph in this location. Bridleway no. 1693 links the maintained highway to the application site.

WSCC in its role as Local Highway Authority (LHA) was previous consulted regarding highway matters for this site for similar application DC/25/0211, of which no highway safety or capacity concerns were raised. The Local Planning Authority (LPA) refused the application on grounds unrelated to highways.

Under the current General Permitted Development Order (GPDO), it is permitted development to change use from agricultural to residential (Class C3) subject first to prior approval being granted. As part of the prior approval process, there are a number of matters to be considered. This includes matters relating to highways and transport. However, the GPDO is quite clear as to what highway matters can be considered, namely whether the proposal is likely to result in a material increase or a material change in the character of traffic in the vicinity of the site.

Generally, the change of use from agricultural to residential would generate a reduction in material use at the site. The existing use would create a certain number of movements throughout the day, whereas the movements associated with residential use would be anticipated within network peaks. Therefore, although the nature of trips would change, the frequency would likely not exceed that of current use.

An inspection of collision data supplied to WSCC by Sussex Police over a period the past five years reveals there have been no recorded collisions within the vicinity of the existing access point. Therefore, there is no evidence to suggest the existing access is operating unsafely or that the proposal would exacerbate an existing safety concern.

The WSCC Car Parking Demand Calculator indicated that a dwelling of this size and location would require three car parking spaces. From inspection of the plans, there appears to be suitable space within the site for this parking demand to be accommodated, with space for on-site turning. The LPA may wish to secure cycle parking provision to promote sustainable travel within the area.

In summary, the movements associated with agriculture have done so safely with no known safety highways concerns, and C3 residential uses are considered less intensive. West Sussex County Council in its role as LHA has therefore considered the proposal on that basis. The prior approval is therefore considered acceptable in highway terms.

Kyran Schneider
West Sussex County Council – Planning Services