# Uckfield residents fiercely oppose 1,700-home development over infrastructure and environmental fears



Plans for a significant housing development in Uckfield, proposing the construction of 1,700 homes, have sparked fierce public opposition, currently attracting over 100 formal objections. The proposal, which includes provisions for a new school, neighbourhood centre, and sports hub, is under review by Wealden District Council. Residents have expressed deep concerns regarding the adequacy of local infrastructure to support such a substantial influx of new residents.

A recurring theme among the objections is the apprehension surrounding Uckfield’s existing facilities. Many locals query whether the town possesses the necessary infrastructure, such as supermarkets, medical services, and educational establishments, to accommodate additional residents. One concerned resident articulated this frustration: “Please tell me how Uckfield has the infrastructure for this? We’re already struggling in these aspects.” Such comments reflect a broader sentiment that local amenities are already overstretched.

The proposal's potential impact on traffic has also raised alarm among residents. Objectors fear that introducing thousands more vehicles could lead to unprecedented congestion. One resident pointedly remarked, “The traffic situation in the area is already at capacity so with possibly another 5,000 cars added to the mix it will gridlock.” Many see this as an unsustainable expansion, with some warning that Uckfield risks becoming unmanageable as it sprawls beyond a reasonable size.

These concerns are part of a larger pattern in Uckfield, where recent development proposals have faced scrutiny. Just prior, a separate application for a 400-home development on Horstedpond Farm also generated significant local dissent, primarily over similar issues of infrastructure strain and the loss of green spaces. A key aspect of this continued opposition stems from the perception of a rapid, uncontrolled expansion that threatens the rural character of the area.

In addition, the burden on medical services has surfaced as a critical issue. Residents have voiced frustrations about their ability to secure timely medical appointments, with one lamenting, “It's already a struggle to get in to see a doctor." As communities experience an influx of new housing, the strain on local healthcare resources becomes increasingly pertinent.

Environmental concerns are also at the forefront of public objections, particularly regarding the development's impact on local green spaces and biodiversity. One objector condemned the development as “ludicrous overdevelopment,” expressing that it would amount to a "criminal" act against the natural landscape and Uckfield’s rural heritage. Many residents fear that the ongoing encroachment on countryside land will irreparably alter the town’s character and degrade its environmental quality.

Young residents have expressed dismay at the implications of unchecked growth on their future. A 17-year-old commented, “I have already experienced the implications of the unsustainable expansion of Uckfield. My school has become far more crowded. Medical appointments are impossible.” These sentiments highlight a growing frustration among younger demographics, who are increasingly aware of the limitations and challenges posed by their town's rapid development.

As the community rallies, there are calls for Wealden District Council to reject the ambitious housing plans. The urgency of these pleas is underscored by a local objector’s assertion: “This application must be rejected. You cannot seriously expect Uckfield to cope with another 1,700 houses.” The overwhelming sentiment among residents suggests that they believe the development serves primarily to enrich developers rather than addressing genuine local housing needs.

As Uckfield grapples with the prospect of significant change, the outcome of this planning proposal will be instrumental in shaping the future of the town. The council’s decision will not only reflect its stance on housing and infrastructure but will also signal its commitment to balancing growth with the community’s longstanding values and environmental sustainability.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
2. Paragraphs 3, 4, 5
3. Paragraph 2
4. Paragraph 1
5. Paragraph 2
6. Paragraph 8
7. Paragraph 6

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/25178586.plans-1-700-homes-uckfield-prompt-furious-objections/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.sussexlive.co.uk/news/sussex-news/uckfield-horstedpond-400-home-development-7689472> - Residents in Uckfield have objected to a proposed 400-home development on Horstedpond Farm, citing concerns over infrastructure strain, loss of green space, and increased traffic congestion. The development, which includes 35% affordable housing, has prompted significant public opposition, with many questioning the town's capacity to accommodate such growth.
3. <https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/24710077.east-sussex-planners-refuse-uckfield-homes/> - Wealden District Council's Planning Committee North has refused an application for 145 homes on land north of Eastbourne Road in Uckfield. The refusal was based on concerns about the site's sustainability, excessive walking distances, and unsuitable cycling routes, despite the council's planning officers recommending approval.
4. <https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/news/politics/uckfield-housing-development-is-approved-988111> - Wealden District Council's planning committee has approved a housing development of seven homes on land adjoining 22 Keld Drive in Uckfield. Despite objections from local councillor Helen Firth regarding the site's capacity and impact on neighboring properties, the committee granted full planning permission, noting that the principle of development had already been established.
5. <https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/news/people/developer-resubmits-plans-for-major-uckfield-housing-development-4937206> - Developer Gladman has resubmitted plans for a major housing development in Uckfield, proposing up to 145 homes on land north of Eastbourne Road. The application follows a previous refusal by the council's Planning Committee North, which cited concerns over walking distances and cycling routes. The developer argues that the refusal was unjustified and that the need for housing has increased.
6. <https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/23873493.uckfield-290-home-development-appeal-dismissed/> - A planning inspector has dismissed an appeal for a 290-home development on farmland near Uckfield. The inspector cited concerns over the loss of ancient woodland, harm to protected species, and issues related to highway safety and flood risk as reasons for the dismissal.
7. <https://www.cpresussex.org.uk/news/uckfield-and-surrounding-villages-threatened-by-deluge-of-greenfield-development/> - Uckfield and its surrounding villages face numerous housing developments on greenfield sites, with applications for nearly 1,500 homes awaiting decisions and further plans for 2,000 homes in the pipeline. Campaigners express concerns over the environmental impact and strain on local infrastructure, advocating for sustainable housing that meets genuine local needs.