

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

Comments were submitted at 21/04/2024 5:50 PM from [REDACTED]

Application Summary

Address:	Barn North Of Abbey Farm Barn Church Street Higham Rochester Kent ME3 7LS
Proposal:	Change of use of an agricultural building into Five Holiday Let Accommodation Units.
Case Officer:	Mrs Alison Webster

[Click for further information](#)

Customer Details

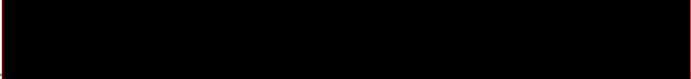
Name:	[REDACTED]
Email:	[REDACTED]
Address:	[REDACTED] Rochester

Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Member of the Public
Stance:	Customer objects to the Planning Application

Reasons for comment:

Comments:	Objection to Abbey Farm Barn Planning Application 17 April 2024 The proposed development is well within the local conservation area (despite the wording of the application). The cluster of building around St Mary's church form a unique example of a small Kentish hamlet. It includes the fine medieval church of Saxon origin and its churchyard, the old vicarage, the old village workhouse, the Clerk's Cottage (1485) the former Sun Inn, once the Ferry House for the river crossing, the pond of the nuns' dairy, the remains of a Benedictine priory in Abbey Farm House, the fine C14th priory barn preserved as a house, and the site of the priory's demesne farm and the medieval fishponds. The priory site and its ancillary farm would benefit from an archaeological survey as part of medieval farming community for which a unique archive of documents is housed in St John's College, Cambridge. The documents record buildings and features which may still be identified in detail today. The road that leads to the hamlet is an ancient track probably used since prehistoric times. The narrow road is already often blocked by people parking in order to walk on the marsh or trying to visit the church. There are no modern facilities for at least two miles. All the local shops and pubs etc have closed. Its isolated position of the edge of the Thames marsh contributes to preserve the historic nature of this uniquely interesting site. The views from the church in each direction, looking across the marshes or towards the fields and existing buildings are unspoiled and an example of the continuity of landscape and community in the past and the present. This is in sharp contrast to the industrial development and despoilation of the northern Thames riverside. The proposed development would disturb the historic nature and atmosphere of the site and encourage future unwelcome development. It contradicts the reason for establishing this as a conservation area.
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Kind regards