

From:
Date: Thu, Mar 19, 2026 at 11:12 PM
Subject: Henry House
To:

Planning Support Statement – Henry House, Heene Road, Worthing

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Planning– Solar Panels at Henry House, Heene Road, Worthing

I am writing to express my strong support for the above application for solar panels at Henry House.

From a planning perspective, I consider this application to be entirely appropriate for its setting. The building is not listed, nor is it subject to heritage constraints, and the addition of solar panels is a widely accepted form of sustainable development. In a residential context such as Heene Road, solar panels are now a familiar feature. I do not believe they introduce any harmful visual impact and if a roof is visible, then solar panels are simply a natural and increasingly expected part of that roofscape.

More importantly, the proposal aligns strongly with both local and national planning priorities around sustainability and the transition to net zero. Energy generation through renewable sources is actively encouraged, and developments such as this represent exactly the kind of incremental, responsible change that contributes to wider environmental goals. A heated swimming pool is, by its nature, energy-intensive; therefore, reducing reliance on grid electricity through solar generation is not only sensible but highly responsible. It demonstrates a proactive commitment to reducing carbon emissions and supporting the Council's environmental ambitions.

However, it is the **community value** of Henry House that I feel is most significant and deserving of weight in this decision.

Henry House is an exceptional local facility that supports a remarkably wide cross-section of the community. It provides vital services for:

- Older residents maintaining mobility and independence
- Individuals recovering from injury or surgery
- Disabled people requiring low-impact rehabilitation
- Babies and young children learning essential swimming skills—particularly important in a coastal town such as Worthing.

Its reach extends well beyond the immediate area, with people travelling from across West Sussex and further afield to access its facilities. This is not simply a private business; it is a deeply valued community asset.

I speak from personal experience as someone who relies on Henry House for rehabilitation. Managing ongoing joint pain requires consistent access to warm water therapy. This allows me to maintain mobility, reduce pain, and live as independently

as possible—ultimately reducing reliance on NHS services. The pool is used by three professional MSK therapists on a 1:1 basis which supports local jobs.

If this application were refused, and energy costs remained high or increased, it is inevitable that prices would rise. This would directly impact not only myself but many others—particularly older and more vulnerable residents—who depend on these services. For some (me), it may mean losing access altogether. (I already make personal sacrifices to continue attending, given the current cost of living).

The solar panels are therefore not just an environmental improvement; it is a **practical measure to help safeguard the long-term affordability and accessibility of a vital community facility**.

Finally, I would add that Henry House has long demonstrated a strong environmental ethos. Their commitment to sustainability is not new or superficial—it is embedded in how they operate and how they serve the community. Supporting this application would be entirely consistent with encouraging responsible, community-focused businesses that actively contribute to local environmental goals.

Please watch [this video](#) to get a small understanding of just how committed Henry House is to the environment & the community.

In summary, the proposal:

- Has **no meaningful visual or heritage impact**
- Makes a **positive contribution to climate and sustainability objectives**
- Helps protect a **valuable and widely used community resource**

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Council to approve this application.

Best regards

Sarah Bridgeman