[redacted]

From: Planning
Sent: 05 November 2025 14:06
To: Sophie.Spencer
Subject: FW: DC/25/0949

Telephone:
Email: planning@horsham.gov.uk

Horsham District Council

Horsham District Council, Albery House, Springfield Road, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 2GB
Telephone: 01403 215100 (calls may be recorded) www.horsham.gov.uk Chief Executive: Jane Eaton

[redacted]
Sent: 02 November 2025 19:26
To: Planning [redacted]
Subject: DC/25/0949

For the Attention of Andrew Bush,

Fell 3 x Oak Tree

Land to the North West of 6 Princess Margaret Road, Rudgwick, West Sussex. RH12 3HN

Dear Mr Bush,

I am the owner of **6 Princess Margaret Road, Rudgwick**, and I am writing regarding the proposed **Root Barrier Scheme** relating to the three mature oak trees situated on the land to the northwest of my property. Having reviewed the proposal, I would like to raise the following concerns and questions for consideration before any decision is made:

1. **Existing Structures and Services**
   I have a **log cabin** directly beneath the largest oak tree, which was granted planning permission by Horsham District Council. The proposed trench for the root barrier would likely need to be dug close to this structure. Additionally, a **power supply cable** runs underground between the cabin and the main house, again with council approval. Any excavation poses a significant risk to this service line.
2. **Extent and Depth of Excavation**
   The trench required to install the root barrier system would likely need to follow the **circumference of all three trees** and could be as deep as **three metres**. Given the proximity of neighbouring properties, it is unclear how this could be achieved safely without encroaching beyond property boundaries.
3. **Health and Safety Implications**
   It appears the barrier would protrude **1–2 inches above ground level** to prevent surface root growth. This could create a **trip hazard** and therefore a health and safety concern for anyone using my garden. In addition, the use of **mechanical excavators**—likely necessary due to the

size and spread of the root systems—could cause substantial ground disturbance and damage to surrounding gardens.

4. **Effectiveness and Potential for Unintended Damage**
   While root barriers are designed to encourage downward root growth, research suggests that **oak trees naturally spread their roots horizontally**. This could redirect root growth towards neighbouring properties, potentially causing **structural or drainage issues** elsewhere.
5. **Assessment of the Trees**
   I would like to know whether **a site visit or arboricultural inspection** has been carried out to properly assess the **size, spread, and condition** of the three oaks before recommending such a scheme. If this can happen I would very much like to be involved.
6. **Proximity to Power Infrastructure**
   Within my garden stands a **telegraph pole** carrying electricity supplies to several nearby properties. The branches of the largest oak are **within touching distance** of this pole and the overhead lines, posing a further safety concern that should be taken into account.
7. **Tree History and Site Context**
   When I purchased my property 29 years ago, these trees did **not have Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)**. At that time, the council offered the opportunity to purchase the trees, which I declined; shortly thereafter, the TPOs were placed on the trees. It seems the original development did not fully anticipate how large these oaks would grow or how their roots would impact surrounding clay soil and nearby foundations over time. Given the **changing climate**, including **hotter, drier summers**, the trees' roots now appear to be spreading further in search of moisture. The recent **increase in acorn production** suggests stress and potential decline.
8. **Safety Concerns**
   Each winter, I have growing concerns about the potential for these large trees to cause **severe damage or injury** during high winds or storms, which are becoming increasingly frequent.

In light of the above, I would respectfully request that the council **reconsider the feasibility and safety of the proposed root barrier scheme**. I am **supportive of the trees being felled** and replaced with **new saplings** in a more appropriate location, where they can thrive without posing risk to property or residents.

Thank you for considering my concerns. I would appreciate acknowledgement of this correspondence and clarification on the next steps in this matter.

[redacted]

Yours faithfully,

[redacted]
[redacted] 6 Princess Margaret Road
Rudgwick, West Sussex

RH12 3HN