19 October 2026

From:
Arun House
Denne Road
Horsham
RH12 1JF

Planning Received
27 OCT 2026
Name:
Ref: CA/26/0124

To:
Catherine Howe
Head of Strategic Planning
Horsham District Council

Dear Catherine Howe

Ref. CA/26/0124

You have invited comment regarding the above planning application for the felling of two yew trees in our Conservation Area. Given my inability to deal with correspondence on-line, I am submitting this letter for your consideration and incorporation into your planning procedures.

I must strongly challenge the need to cut down the two trees in question. It should be born in mind that they are not just 'any old trees', to be easily replaced by others. To be specific, they are outstanding examples in a small group of yews in the locality, of similar growth and maturity, and represent some of the finest examples of their kind in Horsham. It is likely that in age, one in particular goes back to the time of Sir Byshe Shelley, grandfather of the poet and one-time owner of Arun House. Other examples of this splendid tree stand close by in the grounds of Arun House, now my home.

So given their importance, it is my view that they should be protected if at all possible, and only cut down in exceptional circumstances, such as disease, and not because they represent no more than a minor inconvenience. I would submit that the current justification for their destruction is not serious enough to warrant their loss. These trees are extremely slow growing, and I can testify from personal observation that the group has shown no perceptible increase in their girths, certainly in the 46 years I have lived here. It is likely that this position will continue.

Therefore the space available for cars and vans to travel along the drive, with care, will continue as present, and this is is made quite clear by the accompanying photos. It is in constant use by a number of cars, and indeed vans. I regret to say that it is incorrect to state in the submission that vans cannot use the drive. They can and they do.

As a secondary consideration, destruction of the trees would result in a significant loss of privacy for Arun House, which is a further reason that I would wish to contest the application, but my overriding concern is for the loss of these ancient trees as outstanding specimens of their kind. The purpose of a Conservation Area is to conserve, and surely these two yew trees are priority cases for conservation. The bar for justifying their felling should be set high, and given the current position, ie the regular use of the drive by vehicles, it has not been met.

Yours truly

[redacted]