

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 01 October 2026 14:50
To: Planning; [REDACTED]
Subject: URGENT FORMAL OBJECTION – Proposed 9m Openreach Pole, East Street, Billingshurst – Ref OGEEA6009232

Categories: Comments Received



This message needs your attention

• This is their first email to your company.

Report or Mark Safe

Powered by Mimecast

Subject: URGENT FORMAL OBJECTION – Proposed 9m Openreach Pole, East Street, Billingshurst – Ref OGEEA6009232

Dear Horsham District Council Planning Department and Ms Inumula,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed installation of a new **9-metre light wooden telecommunications pole** on East Street, Billingshurst, under Openreach reference **OGEEA6009232**.

I understand that Openreach submitted its Regulation 5 notification to Horsham District Council dated **17 September 2026**. I therefore ask that the Council considers these representations urgently during the notification period and that **no installation takes place at the currently marked position until the matters below have been properly investigated**.

I am the occupier of **2 East Street**, and the proposed pole position has been marked on the pavement **immediately adjacent to our front entrance**.

Access to our home

My principal concern is the effect the proposed position would have upon our family's access to our home.

Our property has **no parking and no alternative vehicular access**. Our front entrance and the pavement immediately outside it are therefore our family's only practical means of entering and leaving the property.

Furthermore, the pavement **terminates shortly beyond our front door, before the end of our property**. We therefore cannot simply approach our front entrance along the pavement from the other direction.

In practical terms, the section of pavement where Openreach has marked the proposed pole is on **our only available pedestrian route to and from our front door**.

This is particularly concerning because we have a [REDACTED] **child who regularly needs to be taken into and out of our home in his buggy**.

The pavement at this location is already relatively narrow. Installing a substantial telecommunications pole immediately beside our front entrance would further reduce the available clear width and, importantly, the manoeuvring space available for us to get our child's buggy safely along the pavement and through our entrance.

This is therefore **not simply an objection concerning appearance, inconvenience or the effect upon our view**. It is a genuine concern that the proposed siting could materially interfere with our family's **only practical means of accessing our home**.

It may also create difficulties for wheelchair users, people with mobility difficulties, visually impaired pedestrians and other parents using pushchairs.

I therefore request that Openreach and Horsham District Council undertake a **physical site inspection before any installation takes place**, rather than assessing this issue solely from a plan.

That inspection should specifically consider:

- the position of the proposed pole relative to our front door;
- the existing width of the pavement;
- the clear usable pavement width that would remain once the pole is installed;
- the space required to manoeuvre a child's buggy into and out of our property;
- the fact that this is our only practical access;
- the fact that the pavement terminates beyond our entrance and consequently provides no alternative approach from the other direction.

Discrepancy over the proposed location

I am also concerned about the inconsistent descriptions of where this pole is actually proposed to be installed.

Openreach's formal notification to Horsham District Council describes the proposal as:

“Outside of 13, East Street, Billingshurst, RH14 9PX.”

However, the public notice displayed at the site describes it as:

“opposite 13 East Street.”

The plan accompanying the Regulation 5 notification marks a position on the western side of East Street, and the corresponding position appears now to have been physically marked on the pavement **immediately adjacent to the entrance to 2 East Street**.

There are therefore three different ways in which the location is effectively being described:

- 1. “Outside 13 East Street” – Openreach's notification to Horsham**
- 2. “Opposite 13 East Street” – the public notice**
- 3. Immediately adjacent to the entrance of 2 East Street – the apparent physically marked position**

I would therefore like Openreach and Horsham District Council to confirm the **precise authorised/notified position and grid reference** and confirm that the position currently marked on the pavement is the same position that was notified to the Council.

Given the significance of the installation, I do not believe there should be any ambiguity about precisely where this 9-metre pole is intended to be installed.

Conservation area and street scene

I am also concerned about the visual impact of introducing a new **9-metre wooden pole** at this particular location.

This is a sensitive historic part of East Street, close to **St Mary's Church** and the historic brick boundary and surrounding buildings.

I therefore ask Horsham District Council to consider the effect of the proposed pole upon the character and appearance of the surrounding historic street scene and any relevant conservation-area considerations.

I also note that Openreach's own Regulation 5 notification specifically asks Horsham District Council to identify any applicable **Article 4 Directions**. I would therefore appreciate confirmation from the Council as to whether any Article 4 Direction or other relevant heritage/planning designation applies to this location.

Why was this particular position selected?

Given the serious access implications of the currently marked position, I would also like Openreach to explain **why this precise location was selected**.

In particular, I would like confirmation of what consideration has been given to:

- **existing Openreach poles or other infrastructure in the vicinity;**
- **existing underground ducts and chambers;**
- **installing the necessary infrastructure underground;**
- **alternative positions elsewhere on East Street; and**
- **simply relocating the proposed pole sufficiently far from our entrance that it does not interfere with access to our home.**

I am **not objecting to the provision of improved broadband or telecommunications services**. My objection concerns the decision to place a new 9-metre pole immediately adjacent to the only pedestrian entrance to our family home when there may be considerably less intrusive alternative positions available.

Moving the pole even a relatively short distance may resolve the access problem entirely.

Action requested

I therefore respectfully request that:

1. **No installation takes place at the currently marked position while these concerns are being investigated.**
2. Openreach confirms the **precise proposed position and grid reference** of the pole.
3. Horsham District Council confirms whether the position currently marked on the pavement corresponds precisely with the position notified to it under Regulation 5.

4. Openreach explains the discrepancy between “**outside 13 East Street**”, “**opposite 13 East Street**” and the apparent physical position immediately adjacent to **2 East Street**.
5. Openreach and/or Horsham District Council undertake a **physical site inspection** before installation.
6. The inspection specifically considers the **clear pavement width remaining after installation**, the proximity to our front entrance and our ability to manoeuvre our [REDACTED] child's buggy safely into and out of our home.
7. Particular consideration is given to the fact that **we have no parking or alternative access to the property and that the pavement terminates beyond our entrance**, meaning this is our only practical pedestrian route to our home.
8. Openreach provides details of the **site survey and siting assessment** undertaken before this particular position was selected, including how residential and pedestrian access was considered.
9. Openreach confirms what **alternative locations and existing infrastructure** have been considered and why those alternatives were rejected.
10. Horsham District Council considers whether the proposed installation is appropriate having regard to the **historic character, conservation considerations and street scene** at this location and whether it should issue any reasonable conditions concerning its siting.
11. Openreach considers **relocating the proposed pole away from the entrance to 2 East Street** to a position where it would not interfere with access to an occupied residential property.

Given that the Regulation 5 notification period is currently running, I would be grateful if both Openreach and Horsham District Council would treat this matter as **urgent**.

Please acknowledge receipt of this objection and confirm that the concerns raised above will be considered **before any installation takes place**.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]
2 East Street
Billingshurst
West Sussex
RH14 9PX

Openreach reference: OGEEA6009232