HORSHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL CONSULTATION

TO:	Horsham District Council – Planning Dept
LOCATION:	Horton Hall Henfield Road Small Dole
DESCRIPTION:	Erection of garage and boundary wall
REFERENCE:	DC/26/1385
RECOMMENDATION:	Advice / No arboricultural objection in principle, although further information regarding likely tree losses and associated impacts would be beneficial to fully assess the proposal. Subject to appropriate replacement planting, the impacts are considered capable of mitigation.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATION

Please note that these comments are based on a desk-based assessment only, and no recent site inspection has been undertaken. The observations and conclusions set out below are therefore based on the submitted plans, supporting information and available online resources.

No trees within the site are protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO), nor is the site located within a Conservation Area. Accordingly, the trees are not currently subject to planning controls requiring the Council's consent for works.

The site is screened by an established boundary tree belt comprising predominantly conifer species. From the submitted information, it is evident that the proposed wall and garage would be sited in close proximity to a number of these trees. As such, it is foreseeable that the excavation of foundations required to construct the wall and building would result in incursions into the rooting areas of adjacent trees; It is therefore likely that the development would result in damage to, or the loss of, some of these trees.

It is noted that the application form records "No" in response to questions relating to the presence of trees and hedges and whether any removal or pruning is required. Given the proximity of the proposed development to the boundary trees, this does not appear to fully reflect the likely relationship between the development and the existing tree cover.

Whilst the scheme appears capable of being delivered in principle, additional information regarding the number of trees likely to require removal, together with the extent of any associated impacts, would assist in establishing the arboricultural implications of the proposal.

Notwithstanding this, the trees are not considered to be of significant arboricultural merit. Whilst they provide a degree of screening, they are predominantly non-native conifer species of limited individual amenity value. Subject to appropriate replacement planting, any resulting impacts are considered capable of mitigation. Given the well-screened and relatively secluded nature of the site, the replacement of the existing trees with a more appropriate species mix is unlikely to result in significant adverse arboricultural or visual effects in the longer term.	
MAIN COMMENTS: N/A	
ANY RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS: **N/A**	
NAME:	Andy Bush Arboricultural officer (Planning)
DEPARTMENT:	STRATEGIC PLANNING - SPECIALISTS
DATE:	20/10/26