

Peter Davies

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 June 2026 11:07
To: Irene Fletcher
Cc: planninginfo
Subject: Application No: DM/26/1352
Attachments: Trees_pic taken from Abergavenny Gardens street.jpeg

[REDACTED]
Dear Irene Fletcher,

Re: Application No: DM/26/1352

Location: 18 Abergavenny Gardens, Copthorne, Crawley, West Sussex

Objection to the Proposed Felling of Leyland Cypress Trees T1, T2 and T3

I wish to object to the proposed felling of T1, T2 and T3, whilst confirming that I support appropriate arboricultural management of these trees, including pruning where necessary.

The application confirms that the proposed works are not required due to disease, structural instability, safety concerns, subsidence, property damage, or any other identified arboricultural issue. No arboricultural evidence has been submitted in support of the proposal. The stated reason for removal is that the trees have “outgrown where they have been planted” and that the applicant prefers to replace them with smaller native species. In my view, this does not constitute sufficient justification for the removal of mature trees protected by a Tree Preservation Order.

The Leyland cypress trees are mature specimens approximately 10–12 metres in height and are prominent features within the local streetscape. I have attached a photograph taken from the road which illustrates their prominence within the Abergavenny Gardens street scene and their contribution to local visual amenity and character.

The size of the trees is entirely typical for this species. Leyland cypress is a vigorous, fast-growing species with well-established mature dimensions. Their current height does not, in itself, provide justification for removal in the absence of evidence of arboricultural defect, risk, or material harm. The applicant has also not demonstrated that the trees are causing an actionable nuisance or any unreasonable interference with neighbouring land. In the absence of such evidence, there is no substantiated justification for their removal on amenity or legal grounds.

The trees provide significant screening, privacy, and landscape amenity for surrounding properties, including my own. Their removal would result in an immediate and substantial loss of established visual screening and local amenity value. Whilst replacement planting is proposed, new trees would take many years, and potentially decades, to provide comparable levels of screening and landscape benefit. The proposal would therefore result in a long-term and significant reduction in amenity.

I note that T4 is proposed to be retained and managed through a reduction in height and spread of 2–3 metres. This indicates that pruning and ongoing management are viable alternatives within the group. It is therefore unclear why similar management approaches have not been considered for T1, T2 and T3 prior to proposing their removal.

I do not object to appropriate arboricultural management, including pruning, where justified. However, I object to the proposed felling of T1, T2 and T3 on the basis that no evidence has been provided to demonstrate that removal is necessary, that retention is not feasible, or that less intrusive management options have been properly explored.

In the absence of any demonstrated arboricultural justification and given the continued public amenity value of the trees, I respectfully request that the Council refuse consent for their removal and support their retention through appropriate management.

Yours faithfully,

Owner of Lashmere Farm, Copthorne Common, Copthorne, RH10 3LB (Neighbour)