

Emma Rivett

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 March 2026 09:44
To: Emma Rivett
Subject: Proposed Tree Removal at 2 Percy Saunders Drive, Hurstpierpoint. Application No DM/26/0484

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Hampton Lodge,
2 Hassocks Road
Hurstpierpoint
West Sussex
BN6 9QN

11/3/2026

Planning Department
Mid Sussex District Council

Dear Miss Rivett,

**Clarification of plans to plant a new tree after the removal of a diseased Ash Tree and
Objection to the Proposed Removal of a Chestnut Tree at 2 Percy Saunders Drive.
Application No DM/26/0484**

I am writing to ask that you clarify the plans for the replacement of the diseased Ash Tree referred to in this application. I would also like to object to the proposed removal of a mature and apparently healthy Chestnut tree located within the Hurstpierpoint Conservation Area.

There is no mention in the application that the Ash Tree is diseased. I believe this is the case and this necessitates its removal. However this tree is large and well established. It provides a significant amount of screening and makes a valuable contribution to the appearance of the Conservation Area. As one of the conditions of removal of the Ash tree are you going to ask that a tree of appropriate type and size is planted in its place?

I would also like to object to the removal of the chestnut tree. This tree provides an important level of screening for my home, helping to maintain privacy and soften the visual impact of the neighbouring buildings. The new development at the Torch has already impacted on the view from our house. Hampton Lodge and its curtilage is a grade 2 listed property. There has already been a loss of trees on the driveway to the Torch. The removal of this tree would significantly affect the outlook from my property and reduce the natural screening that currently exists. The loss of both trees will be of significant detriment to the Conservation Area.

In addition, these trees make a valuable contribution to the character and appearance of the conservation area. Mature trees are an important feature of the historic landscape in Hurstpierpoint and contribute to the village's visual amenity, biodiversity, and environmental

quality. The loss of a healthy specimen such as this would therefore be detrimental to the character of the conservation area.

I understand that one of the reasons given for the proposed removal of the Chestnut is that falling conkers may cause damage. However, the seasonal dropping of conkers is a normal and natural characteristic of horse chestnut trees. Such seasonal effects are generally considered a routine and manageable inconvenience rather than a sufficient justification for removing a healthy mature tree.

Where concerns arise from falling fruit, alternative management measures are typically available, such as seasonal clearance, temporary protection, or minor pruning, all of which would avoid the permanent loss of a tree that contributes positively to the conservation area.

Under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, the local planning authority has a statutory duty to pay special attention to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of conservation areas. In this case, the retention of a healthy mature tree that contributes to local amenity, landscape character, and residential screening would clearly support that objective.

Given that the tree appears healthy and provides clear visual amenity and screening benefits, I respectfully request that the council give significant weight to its contribution to the conservation area when considering this proposal.

I would be grateful if the council could confirm whether an arboricultural assessment has been undertaken and whether the amenity value of these trees has been formally assessed as part of the decision-making process.

Thank you for considering my objection. I would appreciate being kept informed of any decisions or further consultation relating to this matter.

Yours Sincerely,

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