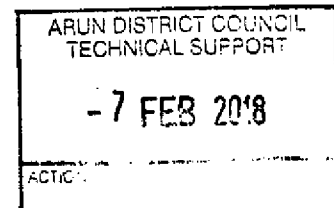


Fiona Sims
1 Hazel Grove
Arundel
West Sussex
BN18 9JD



3 February 2018

Planning Department
Arun Civic Centre
Maltravers Road
Littlehampton
BN17 5LF



Dear Sir or Madam

Re: Planning application AB/148/17/PL

I am writing to object to the above planning application for four detached houses on this piece of ancient woodland adjacent to Dalloway Road and behind Birch Close for the following reasons:

1. This wood is designated as Ancient Woodland and forms part of Tortington Common and is next to, and a continuation of, the South Downs National Park.
2. Two storey houses would be at odds with the single storey bungalows in Birch Close, and the latter would be very overlooked by the new houses.
3. In order to build the houses there will be destruction of at least 15 mature oak trees as well as semi-natural broad-leaved undergrowth, some of which is classed as habitat of major importance in England for wildlife. Each oak tree provides a habitat for over 100 different species of invertebrates - more than any other native tree (see <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/native-trees/english-oak/>), and these provide food for a wide variety of wildlife. I walk through this area nearly everyday and over the seasons I have seen slow worms, grass snakes, foxes, roe deer, hedgehogs and numerous small songbirds, as well as hearing tawny owls here almost every night.
4. Priory Lane, by which the development will be accessed, is a single track road with no passing places and during winter months frequently has a vigorous stream of water running through the ditch along its length. Removal of the mature trees in the designated area would be likely to increase water run off as there would be no roots to help with water retention.

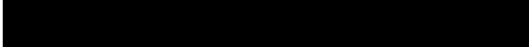
5. The government is meant to be trying to preserve and enlarge natural woodland and destruction of this area would be in contradiction of this policy (see the Forestry Commission policy statement <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-forestry-policy-statement>).

Many people enjoy this woodland and I think it would be extremely detrimental to the local environment and the local community to destroy it, and for these reasons I strongly object to the planning application.

Yours faithfully,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Fiona Sims

A black rectangular redaction box covering the contact information.