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Arun District Council, Civic Centre, Maltravers Rd
Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 5LF
www.arun.gov.uk

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From: Brian Pidduck [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 September 2025 23:42
To: Planning <Planning@arun.gov.uk>
Subject: SUPPORTING INFORMATION FOR TREE APPLICATION AW/194/25/T

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am making further contact with Arun District Council Planning Department this evening to support my application that these ugly, rotten old lombardy poplar trees in Pinehurst Park are dangerous, unsafe and completely undeserving of being protected by law. My application relates to section G9/T2.

I have attached four photographs taken at approximately 16.45 hours this afternoon which show the middle piece from one of the remaining poplar trees a bit further up the road laying on the ground in the horses paddock field which has just snapped off this afternoon, and what the remaining tree looks like.

First thing to say, is we had a storm last night on Tuesday 2 September which has continued with strong gusty wind, and sunshine and showers all day today.

I have stated in my application that these trees are dangerous and ought to have a public health warning on them, and I think these photographs provide excellent supporting evidence. It was just very lucky:

1. That the tree branch has fallen into the field,
2. That the tree branch did not fall on a house,
3. No horses were out in the paddock at the time the branch collapsed,
4. And no pet cats were out in the paddock at the time the branch collapsed.

This piece of tree which is at least 25 feet long could have easily killed a human being or one of our beloved pets if it had fallen towards the houses, or equally, it could have easily killed a horse or one of our pets if they were out in the paddock field at the time.

As I have made clear in my application paperwork, these houses which gained planning permission in 1975 have been allowed to be built much, much too close to these gargantuan sized trees. I repeat and re-emphasize that many tree growers, and garden designers currently recommend a MINIMUM distance of 40 meters between a lombardy poplar tree and a building. The houses on the north side of Pinehurst Park were built just 18 meters away from the trees.

The trees were already planted when the planning permission was granted just over 50 years ago, but Arun DC do not have any record of actually how old the trees were in 1975. The problem with that is Lombardy Poplar trees have one of the shortest expected life spans of any tree in Europe at just 50 years. Those original lombardy poplar trees which are still standing have all exceeded their expected maximum life. As I have stated in my application, an elderly Lombardy Poplar Tree starts to hollow out inside the tree trunk, and therefore it is impossible to gauge by eye how structurally sound the trees are. It is quite common for them to just snap in a storm as my photographs prove. Please see Appendix Nine of my application for an image of a snapped poplar tree obtained from the internet. Any of them could cause serious injury or death to any human or animal at any time as climate change continues to evolve, and the storms this country experience get fiercer and more frequent.

As it was Arun District Council which removed the democratic right 50 years ago from the tree/land/home owners to make their own decisions about getting the trees pruned or felled, . . . it really should be up to Arun District Council to pay to have all the remaining trees felled as a matter of public safety before any loss of life occurs.

The tree preservation order from 1978 should be revoked on all the trees in Pinehurst Park. No doubt about that.

It is totally inappropriate and dangerous to allow these poplar trees in Pinehurst Park to remain protected by law.

I apply to the planning officer assessing this application to do so not only on the information supplied with the original application, but to also consider this email and the photographs on the grounds that all of this very real danger to human and animal life is totally unacceptable to myself and my neighbours.

In my opinion, it just isn't worth the risk of any loss of life by letting these poplar trees remain.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Mr. B. Pidduck
54, Pinehurst Park,
Aldwick,
Bognor Regis,
West Sussex.

Please note, do NOT update this email address to my application as I never read any incoming mail.







This is the tree with the middle now
missing

