

15th September 2025

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Town & Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012

Application No: AW/194/25/T
Site Address: Land to the rear of 54 Pinehurst Aldwick PO21 3DX
Description of works: 1 No. Western Balsam Poplar (T2) to fell.

Thank you for your internet representation made on 12th September 2025 which has been recorded as an objection with the comments as follows:

OWPC78804

1. Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) Are Not Based Solely on Risk

- The author claims the trees "fail all criteria" for a TPO, but TPOs are granted primarily to protect trees of high public amenity value, regardless of species.
- Poplar trees provide visual screening, biodiversity benefits, shade, and climate regulation, which are valid grounds for protection under UK planning law.

2. Poplars Are Not Inherently Dangerous

- While it is true that Poplars can shed branches, this risk is manageable with professional pruning and arboricultural maintenance.
- Most tree species pose some level of risk if not maintained - the solution is management, not removal.
- The claim that "all Poplars are dangerous" is an overgeneralisation. Each tree should be assessed on its individual health, not on species reputation.

3. Lifespan and Disease

- The document states that Poplars have a short life expectancy (50 years), but this is relative. Many Poplars live far longer than 50 years when cared for, particularly hybrids and cultivated varieties.
- Tree preservation should consider current health and contribution to the landscape, not speculative future decline.

4. Ecological and Environmental Value

- Poplar trees provide habitats for numerous bird species, insects, and fungi.

- They contribute to air quality improvement, carbon capture, and noise reduction.
- Removing mature trees has a greater environmental cost than planting replacements, since newly planted saplings take decades to offer equivalent benefits.

5. Root Damage and Subsidence Concerns

- While Poplar roots can be vigorous, damage risks are often exaggerated.
- Modern engineering and root management practices can mitigate risks to buildings, pipes, and drains.
- Subsidence is a complex issue, influenced by soil type, foundation depth, and water management - not solely tree roots. Independent surveys should be required before making claims of damage.

6. Community and Aesthetic Value

- Mature Poplars form part of the local character and green infrastructure.
- Their screening and windbreak benefits (which the objector dismisses) are valuable for reducing noise and pollution near residential dwellings.
- Removing them could negatively affect neighbouring residents, biodiversity, and landscape character.

7. Alternative Solutions to Felling

- Instead of removal, the council could:
- Require periodic safety inspections.
- Permit crown reduction or pollarding to reduce risks.
- Impose a tree management plan under the TPO.

This balances public safety with the preservation of valuable green assets.

Conclusion:

The objections presented are overstated, speculative, and one-sided. While Poplar trees can pose certain risks, these are manageable through proper arboricultural practices. Their environmental, ecological, and community value justifies retaining them under a Tree Preservation Order rather than felling them prematurely.

Your views as made above will be considered before the application is determined.

Please be aware that Planning Services operate an 'open file' policy and will publish your comments including your name and address on the website. The website is updated once a day in the evening so it may take up to 24 hours for it appear on there. Please make sure that you have only provided information that you are happy will be published in this way. If you have supplied information belonging to a third party, you must make sure you have their permission to do so. If you do not wish your comments to appear on the website or on the file you will need to confirm this by emailing to planning@arun.gov.uk and I will arrange for it to be destroyed although this means that the content will then be disregarded.

The majority of applications are determined under delegated powers by officers. Further information on the decision making process can be found on the website at :<https://www.arun.gov.uk/what-happens-next>.

Some applications will be determined by the Planning Committee, and I shall write and inform you of the date of the meeting and the procedures for public speaking if this is the case. However, if your representation has been received after the agenda for the meeting has been finalised and the notifications have been generated, you will not receive notification. In this case, you will need to track the progress of the application on the council's website <https://www.arun.gov.uk/planning-application-search>

Any comments that are received after the agenda has been finalised will be separately reported to the members of the Planning Committee.

Regardless of how the application is determined I will notify you of the decision.

Yours sincerely



Neil Crowther
Group Head of Planning

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If you have provided an email address, all correspondence including the decision notice will be sent by email. It is therefore important that you keep us informed if this changes during the course of this application.

To register to receive notification of planning applications in your area, please go to <https://www1.arun.gov.uk/planning-application-finder>