

- 3 OCT 2025

MR B PIDDUCK
54 PINEHURST PARK
BOGNOR REGIS
WEST SUSSEX
PO21 3DX

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL
PLANNING DEPT
MALTRAVERS ROAD
LITTLEHAMPTON
BN17 5LF

2nd OCTOBER 2025

Dear Sir / Madam,

REF: PLANNING APPLICATION AW/194/25/T – REBUTTAL OF OBJECTIONS

As the applicant for AW/194/25/T, I want to take the opportunity to respond to the two objections from No 60 Pinehurst Park.

REASONS FOR THE APPLICATION

The application has been made for multiple genuine reasons as laid out in the application form and supporting paperwork.

The most important reason for the application is to protect the structural integrity of my property, and those of my neighbours, and to also prevent tree root ingress into the drains of my property and those of my neighbours.

My neighbours are complaining to me about all the root suckers appearing all over our gardens and patios which sprout from poplar tree roots. What choice do I have other than to apply to fell the tree when neighbours are complaining ?

When poplar tree root suckers are near the property, which in this case you can multiply by 2, as the suckers are affecting both No 54 and No 52, the planning precedent has already been set three times over. The tree has to be felled.

If as a consequence of the tree being felled I can straighten out my top boundary fence line and achieve full access to my garden for the first time in 19 years, get full value for money from my Council Tax etc all this information is in the application, . . . then I make no apology for it. None at all.

It is blatantly obvious the application has not been looked at as both objections state that this is an application of convenience. I don't know quite what that is meant to mean ? If only they knew the financial cost of tree work, they would understand this is not an application of convenience.

Both objections also mention the application has been made only to avoid clearing up autumn leaves ? Where did this come from ?

Both objectors have made that information up !

I haven't mentioned anything about autumn leaves in the application. This part of both objections is factually incorrect and should be struck off by the planning officer.

It is my expectation that the LPA would consider all of the genuine reasons for my application together, not just the one or two reasons cherry picked in the objections to support otherwise feeble arguments based on bland environmental generalisations and totally inaccurate information.

TREE MANAGEMENT

Both objections appear to be critical of my management of both my trees.

For the record, tree T1 had to be felled as it was diseased and hollow inside, and to leave it in place would have resulted in the tree going over in a completely uncontrolled manner, . . . as happened a few weeks ago just up the road with the middle part of the tree still laying out in the horses paddock field.

Second thing to state is that in an ideal world Lombardy poplar trees should be pruned every five years which is information readily available on line. It is also in line with advice from the Arun District Council Tree Officer several years ago on a previous application.

There is nothing environmentally irresponsible in the tree pruning which has previously been carried out, which has all been authorised by Arun District Council Planning Department. Basically, regular pruning at five year intervals helps reduce the amount of dead wood, and stimulates new growth and prolongs the life of the tree.

Both objections seem to be based on the delusion that if the tree is allowed to stay, then it will still be there in 100 years time. The objections also seem to expect me to do more now to preserve the tree. Neither of these two things will happen.

Poplar trees have one of the shortest life spans of any tree in Europe at only 50 years, . . . and as I have just stated, regular pruning actually prolongs the life of the tree. All this is in my application paperwork.

I am disappointed with the objections labelling me environmentally irresponsible, when in actual fact the exact opposite is the truth. If the two objectors had actually bothered to look at the detail of my application, they would know I have done exactly what is right to prolong the life of the tree now and for the last nineteen years.

Their objections only reflect their complete lack of knowledge and understanding about plant and tree management, and I ask the planning officer to strike off this element of their objections because they are both again factually incorrect.

As all the trees are allocated to each house, it is a shame that many of the other trees in the road aren't reduced in size regularly in the same careful, managed manner as I have done with my trees.

These uncontrolled, oversized, out of shape giants have a detrimental effect on the appearance of the whole neighbourhood. I completely disagree that these neglected trees offer any improvement to the neighbourhood.

REPLACEMENT PLANTING

I am not against all trees, but I do object to these trees being so close to the houses, and being protected in law when they fail to meet all criteria for a TPO. I have made the goodwill gesture in the application to offer to pay the Woodland Trust to plant replacement trees in a far more appropriate location elsewhere in the country.

In terms of replacement planting, there are big gaps in the treeline as it was intended 50 years ago. I fully support the common sense approach other house owners have taken to open up the area into a light and bright area in our part of the road. I would respectfully point out to both objectors that not all these homeowners can be wrong.

If anything is wrong, it is Arun District Council still protecting the trees by law. The TPO should be revoked immediately.

Perhaps both objectors like living in a dark and gloomy house with a blocked outlook which is fine, . . . each to their own. However, I certainly don't share that opinion and I think the neighbourhood is vastly improved by being opened up.

NESTING BIRDS

For the record, there are currently no birds or squirrel nests in the tree I am applying to fell. The objectors have made a mistake by stating there are woodpeckers nesting in the tree. The planning officer should strike this element of both objections off as this is factually incorrect.

Thank you for mentioning it though, as it further supports my application that there is no reason to keep the tree. The LPA cannot justify keeping the tree on wildlife grounds if it is empty, . . . which it is.

The way both objections have been written makes it appear that there is a whole colony of various woodpeckers living in my tree. This is not correct. My tree is currently empty of any wildlife nest.

No evidence has been provided with the objections of this colony of woodpeckers living in my tree. It doesn't exist.

BLAND ENVIRONMENTAL AND WILDLIFE GENERALISATIONS

Both objections are critical of me for allegedly wanting to remove wildlife habitats for convenience to avoid having to clear up autumn leaves. This is not true and should be struck off by the planning officer.

No wildlife is being made homeless if my lone ugly, rotten poplar tree is felled. As sad as it may be, it is not my fault or my responsibility for whatever problems woodpeckers are facing. That part of the objections can also be struck off.

Both objections don't seem to understand that we live on a housing estate in a town. We don't live in the South Downs National Park in the middle of a wood. The objectors seem to want to make our neighbourhood some sort of wildlife paradise which it is not, and never will be. If they want that type of property, move to the South Downs National Park.

There must be something very wrong with the planning system if a so called wildlife habitat, . . . to call it this is being very generous, . . . is given priority over the long term future of two properties for human beings.

WILD BIRDS ARE PESTS

Finally, the objections seem to be all in favour of wild birds and wildlife, and if that is their area of interest, and enthusiasm then all respect to them for that.

I am at the completely opposite end of the spectrum, and view wild birds as nothing but a pest which should be categorized in the same bracket as a rat. Wild birds are nothing but a nuisance in the neighbourhood.

Wild birds poo all over our fence, they occasionally poo on the washing when it is outside drying, they poo on the garden furniture which constantly has to be cleared up before use, they poo on our cars and they drop their food on the ground which just attracts vermin into the garden.

The objections write as if all this is a good thing. If by felling the tree, it has the consequence of fewer wild birds near my property, this is a situation I am more than happy to accept. Wild birds must be one of the dirtiest, most disgusting disease ridden creatures known to man.

People have short memories. What is one of the theories of where the Covid pandemic originated ? There are some lines of thought it originated in a poultry factory in China. I don't know if that is correct or not, but it helps focus the mind about what dirty, disgusting, disease ridden creatures wild birds are.

The wild birds from the field do nothing but annoy the seagulls in the area, and all they achieve is to make the seagulls squawk causing noise pollution, to try and frighten them off the piece of house roof they might be standing on at the time. The wild birds from the field are nothing but a pest, simple as that, and I would not want to be responsible for encouraging their numbers to flourish in this our residential neighbourhood.

I have attached some information from Hawkeye Bird Control and Thayer Birding which provides more information on what dirty, disgusting disease ridden creatures wild birds actually are.

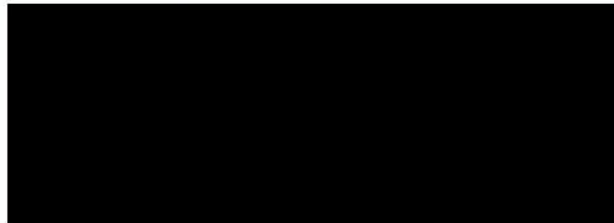
SUMMARY

To sum up then, my expectation would be for my application to fell this one, ugly, rotten stand alone poplar tree to be considered for all of the reasons in my application.

The application should not be assessed on just the few cherry picked objection reasons, some of which are factually incorrect, which have been put forward by the people at house number 60.

This neighbourhood is residential, not a wildlife park.

I hope with the extra information I have provided that the concerns for both objectors have been addressed, and I hope they both now understand the tree has to be felled for perfectly genuine reasons.



MR B PIDDUCK



Diseases Birds Can Carry & How To Protect Your Health

Diseases that birds can spread are a growing health concern for many communities. As the population of wild and domesticated birds continues to increase, so does the risk of contact with diseases they may carry. Understanding the importance of protecting your family from these ailments and helping reduce exposure in your home or business environment is essential. In this blog, we will discuss some common diseases of birds and how to protect yourself from them.

Cryptococcosis

Cryptococcosis is a potentially fatal fungal infection caused by the fungus *Cryptococcus neoformans*. It is spread by contact with bird droppings, such as those of pigeons, and can present as pneumonia in the lungs or meningitis in the brain. People with weakened immune systems are more likely to be affected by cryptococcosis. Symptoms include fever, malaise, and headache, slowly progressing over weeks to months. Treatment typically includes antifungal medications and supportive care. It is important to take preventive measures such as wearing protective clothing when **cleaning up bird droppings** (<https://www.hawkeyebirdcontrol.co.uk/bird-dropping-removal/>) and washing hands after contact with birds or their droppings.

Histoplasmosis is an infection caused by breathing in spores of a fungus often found in bird droppings. It is caused by the fungus *Histoplasma capsulatum*, located in soil, particularly around places where large birds gather. The infection usually affects the lungs, and symptoms can vary greatly, ranging from mild to severe. Most people with histoplasmosis have no symptoms but can cause fever, chest pain, cough, and difficulty breathing if left untreated. It can sometimes spread to other organs, such as the brain or eyes.

Psittacosis

Psittacosis, parrot fever or ornithosis, is a zoonotic infectious disease caused by the bacterium *Chlamydia psittaci*. It is primarily spread to humans from infected birds in the parrot family, known as psittacines, but can sometimes be found in chickens and ducks. Symptoms of psittacosis include fever and chills, headache, muscle aches, and dry cough. More severe symptoms, such as pneumonia, can occur in some cases. It is vital to take precautions when handling birds infected with psittacosis and seek medical attention if any of the above symptoms develop.

Avian Tuberculosis

Avian Tuberculosis, also known as avian mycobacteriosis, is a contagious disease caused by the *Mycobacterium avium* bacteria. It is endemic worldwide and widespread in waterfowl because they prefer damp conditions. Chickens, pigeons, seagulls, pheasants, quail, guinea fowl, turkeys, parrots, budgerigars, ducks, geese, doves and other birds can all spread Avian Tuberculosis. The disease causes tubercles (granulomatous lesions) in the viscera, leading to progressive weight loss and death if left untreated. Avian tuberculosis is also a zoonotic disease which means it can be transferred to humans but can be treated by taking antimicrobial medication.

E-Coli

E. coli, or *Escherichia coli*, is a large and diverse group of bacteria that can cause human illness. While most strains of *E. coli* are harmless, some can make people sick. One way that *E. coli* can be spread is through birds, which can carry the bacteria on their feathers and feet and then transfer it to other animals or humans when they come into contact with them. This transmission type is widespread in areas with large concentrations of birds, such as farms or parks.



Salmonella is a type of bacteria that can cause food poisoning in humans. It is commonly spread through the consumption of undercooked or raw meat, poultry, eggs, and egg products. Birds can also spread salmonella, as they are known to carry the bacteria on their feathers and feet. When birds come into contact with food or surfaces that humans use for eating and preparing food, they can transfer salmonella to these items and cause an infection in those who consume them. It is important to keep bird feeders away from areas where people eat and prepare food to prevent salmonella infections from birds. Additionally, it is important to thoroughly cook all meats and poultry before consuming them.

Trichomonosis

Trichomonosis is an infectious disease caused by the microscopic parasite *Trichomonas gallinae*. It is commonly found in garden bird species and can be spread through contact with infected birds or their droppings. The protozoan parasite causes lesions in the throat of infected birds, making it difficult for them to swallow food. In addition, trichomonosis can cause caseous necrosis of the oral cavity and potentially orbital, brain, and liver lesions in poultry. It is important to keep bird feeders clean and avoid contact with wild birds or their droppings to prevent its spread.

Protecting Your Health

It is essential to be aware of the potential health risks of diseases carried by pigeons and other birds can carry, and to take appropriate steps to protect your health. While the diseases discussed above are some of the most common ones associated with birds, many more could potentially affect humans (<https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/releases/61646#1>). To stay safe, it is essential to practice good hygiene when handling birds or their droppings (<https://www.hawkeyebirdcontrol.co.uk/bird-dropping-removal/>), avoid contact with wild birds whenever possible, thoroughly cook all meats and poultry before consuming them, and keep bird feeders away from areas where people eat and prepare food. By taking these precautions, you can ensure that you and your family remain healthy.

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TIPS & TRICKS

List of Diseases That Birds Carry You Should Know!



WRITTEN BY

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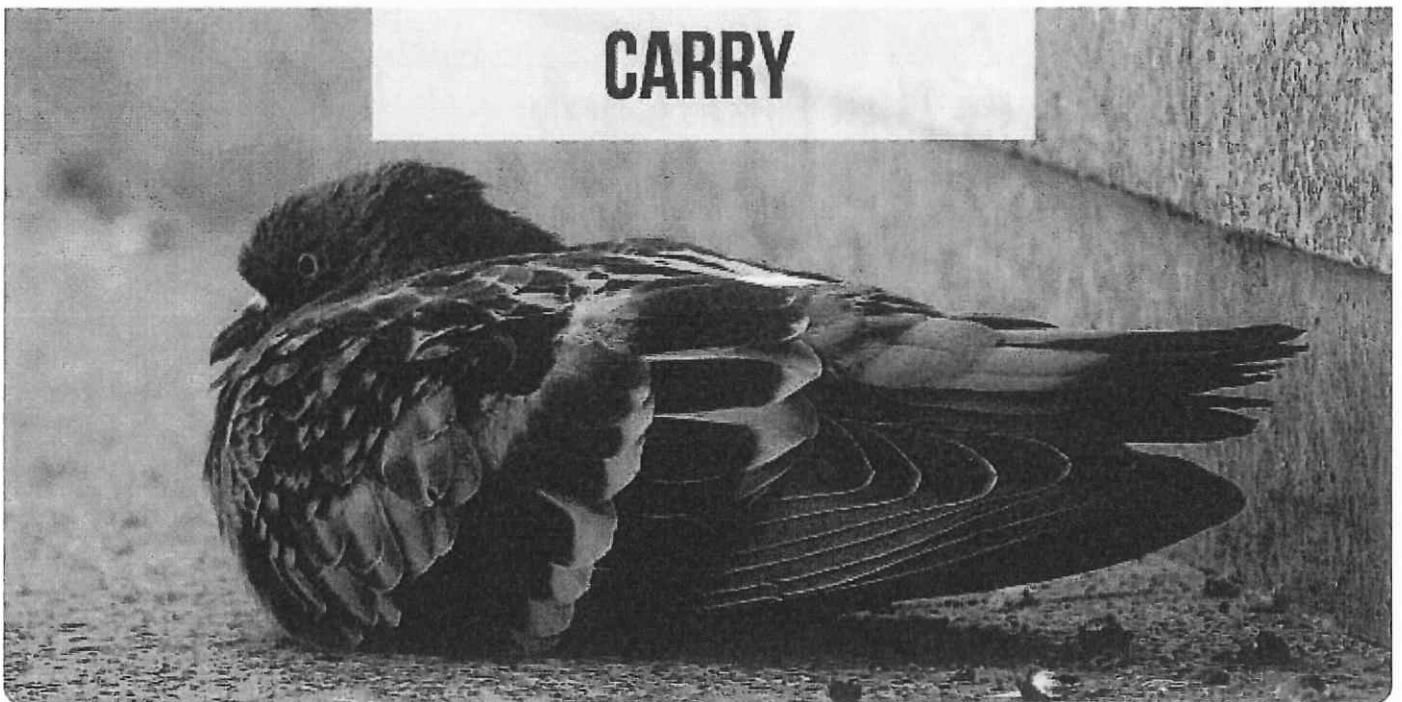


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Tips & Tricks

DISEASES THAT BIRDS CARRY



Humans coexist with birds in the environment and these creatures also dwell near human habitation. Now we ask, what diseases do birds carry to humans? Well, there are plenty of them.

For your information, there are many infections, parasites, and diseases that birds carry to humans. In fact, there are over 60 diseases worldwide that are known to be bird diseases in humans. Those can range from a minor infection to a severe illness and are transmitted once in contact with an infected bird, droppings, or secretions.

In light of this, let's go over what you should know about those diseases.

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List of Diseases That Birds Carry

1. Fungal infection from birds



Bird fungal infections in humans include histoplasmosis and cryptococcosis.

01 Histoplasmosis

It is caused by the fungus Histoplasma, which lives in the soil where bird droppings have accumulated.

You see, tiny spores of this fungus can mix in the air, leading to infection when inhaled by humans.

However, this is not a worry for healthy individuals as it may go away without special treatment. But, the infection will become severe in people with weak immune systems.

If infected with this diseases caused by birds, the symptoms would be fever, cough, fatigue, chills, chest pain, and body pain,

02 Cryptococcosis

Next, we have cryptococcosis caused by the fungus Cryptococcus neoformans.

Much like Histoplasma, this disease is also transmitted to humans through inhalation of the dust from dried pigeon droppings containing the microscopic fungus.

Once infected, it will affect the respiratory system and spread to the nervous system and lead to complications such as meningitis and other respiratory problems. The possible symptoms are coughing, chest pain, dizziness, blurred vision, and severe headache.

2. Bacterial infection from birds

For bacterial infection, there are psittacosis and campylobacteriosis.

01 **Psittacosis**

It is among the diseases caused by birds that affect the respiratory system. It may cause inflammation leading to pneumonia. This disease is transmitted through inhalation of dust particles from dried droppings or feathers, through a bite, and through beak-to-mouth contact.

This is caused by the bacteria called *Chlamydia psittaci*. The symptoms to watch out for are fever, chills, headache, muscle aches, and dry cough.

02 **Campylobacteriosis**

The illness is caused by the bacteria of the genus *Campylobacter*. This bacteria is present in animals such as wild birds, considered one of the wild bird diseases.

The possible modes of transmission are eating raw or undercooked foods, drinking contaminated water, or having contact with an infected wild bird. The symptoms are severe abdominal pain, diarrhea, and fever.

3. Bird parasites in humans

Parasites also live in birds, and some of them can also infect humans such as feather mites and cryptosporidiosis.

From the name itself, you can guess that feather mites feed on birds and live in their feathers. Though visible, these insects are so tiny and hard to spot unless you look carefully. Bird mites are tiny black insects walking on eight legs, about under 1 mm long.

Without a host, these bird mites will crawl, infest people's homes, and feed on humans to survive. Although not technically harmful and poses no serious threat, the problem lies in the uncontrollable itchiness caused by their bites.

How does it affect people? If feather mites bite you, the symptoms would be a severe itch, red bumps on the skin, and swelling in the area of the bite.

Another bird parasitic disease is cryptosporidiosis. The parasite *Cryptosporidium parvum* lives in the digestive tract, particularly the intestines, of many species of animals, including birds.

Waterborne transmission is the main cause of its rapid spread, or when a human ingests water that is contaminated with the droppings of a bird with this parasite.

Once infected, the main manifestation of this disease is diarrhea. Other symptoms include stomach cramps, dehydration, nausea & vomiting, and weight loss.

4. Wild bird diseases

Wild birds are particularly more likely to bring diseases. One of them is the avian flu, also known as avian influenza or bird flu. This highly contagious disease is a viral infection that occurs among wild birds and many other species.

Though rare in humans, it can still occur, and there are known cases of humans with bird flu, alerting people to be cautious in an area where wild birds dwell.

Wild birds transmit diseases to humans through exposure to an infected bird's saliva, droppings, and secretions/mucus. During an infection, the symptoms are conjunctivitis, sneezing or coughing, runny nose, low fever, and muscle aches.

5. Bird poop disease in humans

Bird droppings or bird poop are arguably the most responsible for the transmission of bird diseases. An example of that would be avian tuberculosis.

How to prevent contracting diseases from my pet birds?

The most efficient way of preventing diseases from birds is by washing your hands thoroughly before and after handling your birds, their droppings, and any items found in their cage, such as their water dish and feeders.

What to do if I notice any symptoms of diseases from birds?

Immediately seek a healthcare provider, especially for those with weakened immune systems. Most bird diseases, if left untreated, could be potentially fatal.

What other birds carry diseases aside from pigeons?

Other birds known to carry diseases include geese, sparrows, and sterling.

Psittacosis is also one of the parakeet diseases, along with giardiasis, caused by a parasite. Dove diseases are transmitted through dove droppings, feathers, and secretions.

This disease is caused by the bacteria *Mycobacterium avium*, which affects a large number of bird species and humans. Transmission is through the poop or droppings of an infected bird.

Contact with the contaminated droppings will make a human susceptible to the infection. One scary fact about this bacteria is that it can survive up to 4 years in droppings and soil.

Beware of the symptoms of this disease, such as fever, vomiting, diarrhea, dehydration, and headache.

6. Which bird carries the most diseases?

Pigeons are known to be the carrier of most diseases that are known to affect humans. These birds are able to transmit both bacterial and fungal infections to humans through their droppings, secretions, and feathers.

Pigeons have built a reputation for themselves and are being compared to rodents. It is possible that pigeons could bring more diseases than rats solely because of their sanitary habits, according to some bird pest control experts.

Pigeons are often found to be infesting buildings, filling the place with their droppings and leaving behind damaged structures.

The most common diseases caused by pigeon droppings and feathers include cryptococcosis, histoplasmosis, psittacosis, and salmonella.

FAQ