Dear Sir/Madam,

Planning Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 02/10/2025 1:20 PM from Mr John Stevens.

Application Summary

Address:	23 Roman Crescent Southwick West Sussex BN42 4TY
Proposal:	Section 211 Notice under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to fell and replace one Holly T1 and one Sycamore tree T2 in the Southwick Conservation Area.
Case Officer:	Jeremy Sergeant

Click for further information

Customer Details

Name:	Mr John Stevens
Email:	
Address:	37 Roman Crescent Southwick West Sussex

Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Neighbour
Stance:	Customer made comments in support of the Planning Application
Reasons for comment:	- Other
Comments:	I'm writing to support the application. The reason is because sycamores are not indiginous, and their sycamore provides a real risk to infecting their oak tree which is superb. There are a row of sycamores in front of our homes, with trunks are less than a metre from boundary, committing both aerial and root trespass, and they are all incurably infected with Brittle Cinder or to use its proper name Kretzschmaria deusta, and it is a fungal pathogen that causes breakage in seemingly healthy trees. Both Adur and West Sussex County Council have abrogated their responsibility in leaving these trees, as for safety they should all be felled. They pose a literal risk to life, as the reason its called Brittle Cinder is once infected, a visual inspection cannot ascertain how far the disease has spread, and the disease presents itself by trees falling over without warning, and boughs falling off without warning, plus they fill up the gutters and paths with infected detritus from the trees, where brittle cinder not only attacks sycamores, it attacks virtually all indiginous trees, where sycamore is not indiginous. It attacks OAK, BEECH, BIRCH, ALL MEMBERS OF THE MAPLE FAMILY, HORSE CHESTNUT, and the irony is I pointed out to Adur and West Sussex that these trees had Kretzschmaria deusta about 7 years ago,

and where expert advice suggests they should ALWAYS BE FELLED. Adur and West Sussex Highways ignored it, but then reluctantly after about a year sent me an email acting as though THEY had discovered the trees were diseased confirming they had Kretzschmaria deusta.

So the risk to other trees in the area is major, especially the oak tree in the garden of No. 23, which is why I'm for them felling the sycamore, as it would provide a very easy infection route to the oak tree via the already infected sycamores less than 50m away.

West Sussex have had to pay a fortune in felling other trees that have caught this off the sycamores, including oaks by the Rest Home, but of course they won't divulge what disease merely it was a fungal disease which Kretzschmaria deusta is.

Of late West Sussex Highways have even openly lied to residents, stating that the trees are inspected annually, when the nature of this disease means YOU CANNOT ASCERTAIN the extent of the disease by a visual inspection, and where in any event they lied as because of my previous work I have high resolution CCTV showing that the dates they said they had inspected were a complete fabrication.

Indeed I wrote to MP Tom Rutland, copying in to West Sussex, as they'd replied with a bunch of lies that I immediately confronted, and where the West Sussex officer went away saying he would need to check.needless to say he didn't come back!

I love trees, I support felling the sycamore because it a real distinct route for infecting an oak tree.

A sycamore came down in 1987 in front of my house, it left a root void that the council would not fill, so I applied for permission to fill it. It took 25 years bring the level of the soil back to where it should have been. Each year spent compost was put there. When it was levelled I applied for a planting license with West Sussex, and it took about six months to get, but I obtained a planting license to allow me to plant woodland species where the tree had fallen. I put wood anemonies, ox lips, cowslips, primroses, crocus, daffodils, and even the hard to plant Snakes Head Fritillaries, which all took, and where we had so many passers by praise what 'the council' had done. I paid for it all. Indeed one day Friends of the Earth sent a delegation over, and I saw them taking photos, and they were shocked to find it was an individual, but even more shocked when I told them about the diseased trees.

In the end after establishing the woodland patch, I could no longer in all conscience keep that going, for fear of people being crushed when looking at the flowers, and kids play amongst these trees, where there's not even a warning about the distinct possibility of them falling over without notice, let alone the damage they have caused to paths, and the boundary wall, with boughs now trespassing way over our roofs, but again its a do as we say not do as we do from local government, and if they were my trees they would have served an enforcement notice for me to fell them.

There's 2in. of moss all over the roof, and I have to clear the path of infected detritus 3 times a year to safeguard Joan, as its as slippery as ice, and the seeds, which are also infected root in the garden, wreaking havoc on any other trees they DO infect.

At a time when government advise getting solar panels, we can't contemplate anything like that, and where each year these trees are infecting even more trees.

At the corner of Roman Road/Southwick Street, they have infected another horse chestnut, but of course West Sussex won't confirm that. They infected trees in Roman Way, and if they infected the oak tree at 23 Roman Crescent would be a real tragedy as oaks support a massive amount of wildlife and insect life.

Of late the infected trees show even more signs of internal damage as they are starting to get bracket fungus, a sure sign that internal rot is progressing.

If Adur and Worthing require any evidence I'd be happy to supply it.

https://www.youtube.com/shorts/Cj0CB-PqNdU