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RBC Planning Dept – via email

29th October 2024

RU.24/1357 4 Cottage Close, Ottershaw KT16 0NJ - Removal of hedge and installation of fence.

Dear RBC Planning

We are writing to object to the above planning application and recommend it be **REFUSED** on the following grounds:

Yet another seemingly unnecessary loss of an historic Ottershaw hedge, the destruction of which contravenes RBC policies EE9 and EE11 of the current RBC Local Plan.

The RBC Green and Blue Infrastructure SPD is designed to protect and enhance our existing natural habitats, and clearly the loss of this hedge does not result in biodiversity net gain but diminishes it.

We have concerns that there is a danger that the trees covered by TPO 21 will be harmed by the works especially the removal of the hedge and the installation of concrete posts which could very well be within the Root Protection Areas of the trees and damage the roots of them, in time causing them to die resulting in yet more biodiversity loss.

We would expect BS5837 – 2012 to be used to ensure that any excavations and works do not disturb the health of the trees. Should the application be approved, a condition should be set for this.

The footpath that the hedge encroaches on is very little used and in our opinion the SCC alleged 'problem' this causes to the few pedestrians who use it could easily be remedied by a yearly trim back. It should be noted that this footway only continues for another 10 metres and only provides a route for about 12 properties.

We are aware of a known history of SCC unfairly placing pressure on residents through issuing notices requesting residents remedy or legal action may ensue. It is our understanding this practice should no longer be in place but we are uncertain whether this is the case. We look to RBC to confirm that this is not the case in this instance.

We understand that the house owner was contacted directly by SCC who advised this hedge be removed, however we are puzzled that this letter is not part of the evidential documents published with this planning application. If it is RBC policy not to publish this document, may we request the relevant contact at SCC so that we may contact them also?

J Last – Chair ONF

On behalf of the Ottershaw Neighbourhood Forum