[redacted] DevelopmentControl

Subject: Tree affected by planning application 25/01003/FUL
Date: 26 June 2025 16:38:24

Hello,
I am sending you these comments by email because I am encountering an error when I try to upload them as a comment on your website. Thank you for your attention to this.
[redacted]

I regretfully urge rejection of this application because I believe that it still provides inadequate protection for Ash tree T1, which is significant both within the landscape and environmentally.
According to experts, this tree would qualify at least as a notable tree and quite possibly as a veteran or ancient tree. As such, it should arguably benefit from protections beyond those suggested in the Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA). In particular, the tree would be eligible for an enlarged Root Protection Area (RPA), which could increase the area over which precautions to avoid root damage would be implemented by over 50%.
I had also understood that all groundwork within the tree's RPA, especially where excavation would take place for the foundations of the new dwelling, would require the use of manual techniques and hand tools alone (at least initially). However, such mitigation is not actually specified either for the installation of foundations (3.3) or the removal of existing hard surfacing (3.2).
Finally, I am unclear what protections are actually afforded to the tree under the AIA and this application. The AIA states in section 2.8.2 that it provides recommendations only and that final decisions about treatment of the tree are left to the architect and structural engineer. It also states that the protections afforded by the Tree Preservation Order on the tree are overridden by any planning permission granted. It seems to me that this makes it impossible to know what level of protection the tree would actually receive.