

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Church of Scientology, Saint Hill Road, East Grinstead
Date: 15 January 2025 18:45:09

Hi [REDACTED],

I've been looking through the most recent correspondence on this enquiry, and I can see that the Church appear to have a discrepancy with the Highway boundary.

I'm just wondering, has the Highway boundary been double checked with the CCD Land Charges team for both sides of the road here?

I only ask as I have had an instance recently in Hassocks through enquiry 3283569, where there was a whole grass bank showing as Highway maintainable on our systems, however, upon checking with Land Charges, [REDACTED] advised that the whole area was in-fact not Highway maintainable at all and so the Highway boundary layer was then amended to reflect this. There is a pre and post site map on the enquiry showing the change. Slightly different circumstances as it was a grass bank and not a verge, but just thought I'd mention it in case it was something you may want to check out.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Arboriculturist
Economy, Infrastructure and Environment
Highways and Transport
West Sussex County Council

[REDACTED]

Please note that I work Tuesday-Friday only

[Report a problem with a road or pavement](#) or [raise a highways related enquiry](#)

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Follow - Up
Date: 17 October 2024 15:06:27

****EXTERNAL****

Dear [REDACTED]

I hope this finds you well. I had emailed [REDACTED], but I suspect she is not in the office - so I'm hoping you may be able to point me in the right direction. Following from our meeting, I attempted to submit the application for a license to put up a cordoned barrier on the verge for the three days to accommodate any pedestrian traffic. I assumed the correct license was the scaffolding and hoarding license which, per the Terms & Conditions for getting a license for hoarding & scaffolding it says 5 days prior - however on the online form it is requiring 15 days. We're not putting up scaffolding or anything major, but a barrier to mark the path so we keep people off the carriageway.

Can you direct me if there is another online form or form that I can fill out for this - or do I need to go to WSCC to apply in person?

[REDACTED] regards,

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Annual Event at the Church of Scientology Saint Hill Road East Grinstead
Date: 13 September 2024 07:36:02
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Morning [REDACTED],

Can you take this one on please – my view is that we can request the removal of the planters on the public highway (looks like they are on it), but not much we can do to prevent the temporary banners.

I'll let [REDACTED] know I have passed you to investigate.

Thanks

[REDACTED]
Highway Operations Manager – Eastern
Place Services
Highways, Planning and Transport
West Sussex County Council

[Report a problem with a road or pavement](#) or [raise a highways related enquiry](#)

Follow us at [@WSHighways](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2024 3:00 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Annual Event at the Church of Scientology Saint Hill Road East Grinstead

Hi [REDACTED],

The Church of Scientology resides in my division in East Grinstead and is positioned along Saint Hill Road. I have attached a number of photographs that I have been sent which show the area in and around the entrance late last year where we had a protest outside during the time of their international convention which is fast approaching.

The pictures show various situations – ie the road as is normal and the footway outside the Church of Scientology is clear. And then photos where you can see protesters standing in the road because behind them the Church have placed huge planters on each side of their entrance which is outside of their boundary (judging by the enclosed maps) coupled large vehicles that can be seen parked behind and along what is a pedestrian footway. I can't fathom any reason as to why they would do this given this does not appear to be their land and it does cause an obstruction on the highway not just for anybody protesting but also other pedestrians – particularly those attending the event who are forced to walk in the road to get to it as many are parked in other car parks along that road.

[REDACTED]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

On 12 Sep 2024, at 12:27 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Thanks speak then

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2024 12:27 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Meeting

EXTERNAL

Hi [REDACTED],

Lets go for 1.30 in that case. 30 mins should be plenty.

Here is the Teams link:

[REDACTED] invited you to a Microsoft Teams Meeting:

ABR x JR
Thursday, September 12, 2024
1:30 PM - 2:00 PM (GMT)
Meeting link [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On 12 Sep 2024, at 10:40 AM, [REDACTED] > wrote:

Morning [REDACTED],

I am around today between 12 and 2 if that is any good for you

tomorrow and next week is full on so if we could squeeze it in at some point today that would be helpful and it would need to be via Teams.

Let me know

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2024 10:19 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Meeting

EXTERNAL

Good morning [REDACTED] ,

Please excuse the delay in getting back to you, I have been away on a work trip.

I have detailed maps of the area, including the property boundaries from Land Registry and photographs from last year which I would be more than happy to share with you.

Would it be possible to arrange either an in-person meeting or a Teams call in the next few days, please?

I am available any time tomorrow or Friday or alternatively next week Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday are pretty flexible, if any of those days work for you?

Thank you

[REDACTED]

On 9 Sep 2024, at 14:3 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] wrote:

Dear [REDACTED] ,

Thank you for your email and apologies for the delay in replying I have been away.

I am happy to discuss but as I said previously it would be really helpful if you could provide a map or photo of exactly where protesters would like to stand so that I can ascertain whether or not this is private or public highway?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 10:35 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Meeting

****EXTERNAL****

Dear [REDACTED],

As you may be aware, Scientology have notified Mid Sussex District Council of their intent to hold a large gathering at Saint Hill in the coming weeks.

I was wondering if it would be possible to arrange a meeting with you to discuss our plans to protest this year, and whether the Council will be able to step in to prevent some of the issues we encountered last year?

I'm keen to ensure the event (and our protest) causes minimal disruption to the local community.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

LEGAL DISCLAIMER

This email and any attachments are confidential and intended solely for the persons addressed. If it has come to you in error please reply to advise us but you should not read it, copy it, show it to anyone else nor make any other use of its content. West Sussex County Council takes steps to ensure emails and attachments are virus-free but you should carry out your own checks before opening any attachment.

CAUTION This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

CAUTION This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Hedgerow removal outside the Church of Scientology
Date: 10 January 2025 07:19:59

Hi [REDACTED],

I believe you undertook a site inspection here and established that the trees/hedge wouldn't put up much of a fight if we were to consider having them removed. All things considered, we have made the decision to have the unauthorised planting removed from the public highway and therefore I would appreciate it please if you could raise a job to do the necessary.

If you could let me have the job number, please, I'll see if I can secure some other gang resource to undertake the work.

Thanks

[REDACTED]
Highway Operations Manager – Eastern
Place Services
Highways, Planning and Transport
West Sussex County Council

[Report a problem with a road or pavement](#) or [raise a highways related enquiry](#)

Follow us at [@WSHighways](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2025 4:54 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Hedgerow removal outside the Church of Scientology

Hi [REDACTED]

Do you have any idea as to when the above works will take place?

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Saint Hill Manor - Annual Convention
Date: 15 October 2024 15:39:02
Attachments: [REDACTED]

FYI

[REDACTED]
Highway Operations Manager – Eastern
Place Services
Highways, Planning and Transport
West Sussex County Council

We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

[Report a problem with a road or pavement](#) or [raise a highways related enquiry](#)

Follow us at [@WSHighways](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 2:06 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Saint Hill Manor - Annual Convention

We have recently been made aware of an event happening at Saint Hill Manor (home to the Church of Scientology) in East Grinstead.

The event occurs over the weekend of the 25th and 26th October and is understood to attract up to 10,000 visitors to the site. Whilst the event does not encroach onto the highway it has been subject to protesting before with protesters occupying the highway at the entrance to Saint Hill Manor. The road is a typical country two lane with minimal verges and no footways – save for a very small section directly outside the entrance to Saint Hill Manor.

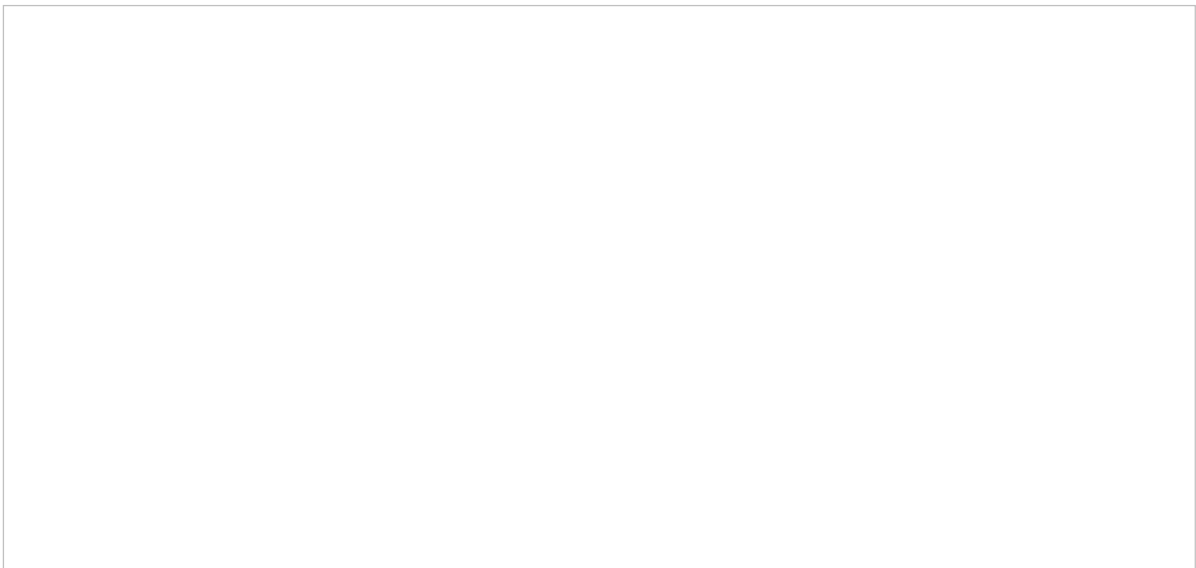
I was first made aware of the event when contacted by an officer at Mid Sussex Council with reference to a potential application for a public space protection order (PSPO). The PSPO is entirely a District Council matter – although the County would be a consultee to any application. At present I understand that MSDC have no intention to go through the application process for a PSPO for this year's event.

Our understanding is that in 2023, when a similar event was held, the District granted an order under the Police and Town Clauses Act for a temporary closure of Saint Hill Road. MSDC may choose to implement a similar restriction this year.

No application for a temporary traffic regulation order to restrict traffic on the road has been received. Officer opinion is that this would not be a suitable device for the activity.

Officers have spoken to the police who are aware of the event and recognise it will need a police presence. As this will happen then the police will be in a position (and have the necessary powers) to manage traffic at the site – whether vehicular or on foot.

It has been reported that at last year's event the section of footway directly outside the entrance to Saint Hill Manor was blocked with temporary planters. These have subsequently been removed. (the area is the section that is paved directly outside the pedestrian gate past the telegraph pole and through to the driveway visible in the picture below)



Officers are due to meet with the church soon to discuss this obstruction and the planting of trees opposite the entrance (the leylandii visible in the photo above) as this may be on highway and have been done without a licence.

The issues above have all been raised with officers by the local m ([REDACTED]) and we are keeping her aware of what action we are

taking.



From: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Trees - Church of Scientology, Saint Hill Road, East Grinstead
Date: 20 September 2024 19:14:56
Attachments: [REDACTED]

H [REDACTED],

I carried out a site visit yesterday (19/09/2024) of the privately planted hedge within the Highways extent opposite the access to the Church of Scientology, Saint Hill Road (adjacent to North Lodge).

Please see my photos attached to enquiry 503796. Direct Google Street View link to the site: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/nRXdndqMX9hzMdJP7>

On site I observed the following;

- The trees in question are *Cupressocyparis leylandii* (Leyland Cypress), a conifer species variety that have been planted at a consistent 0.80m from the edge of the carriageway to create a hedge that is 40m in length and now an average of 3-4m tall.
- The hedge appears to be maintained, but unlikely to be by WSCC.
- Immediately to the rear of the hedge is a metal fence and fence-posts, which I suspect is used to tie their fabric sign to.
- There is also wooden beam kerbing to the front (carriageway side) of the hedge. Due to the proximity of the trees/hedge, in time they will inevitably push and/or dislodge the beams due to root and trunk growth which will cause a hazard to the Highway, and some of them already appear to have done so.
- Maintenance would require an annual hedge trim cut back as a minimum, perhaps even bi-annual, requiring 3-way TM.
- These trees have the potential to grow to 20m+ in height, with a mature spread of 3-5m.
- MSDC even advise against planting this species of trees, let alone on the publicly maintainable Highway.

I understand that the Legal Team consider that it is not in the public interest to pursue the removal of these established trees. However, taking into consideration the low value of these trees, their unsuitability for the location, proximity to the carriageway, the maintenance involved and the potential hazards to the carriageway, I do not think we would want to adopt and/or maintain them going forwards. Therefore I would recommend their removal, along with the removal of the wooden beams and the fence to the rear.

If this is something we would consider, it may be in our interests to provide prior notice to EG Town Council and the Church of Scientology.

I can confirm that we would **not** be required to carry out a public consultation for their removal under exemptions within the new legislation of the 'Duty to Consult' S96A of the Highways Act 1980.

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

Arboriculturist
Economy, Infrastructure and Environment
Highways and Transport
West Sussex County Council

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Please be advised that I do not work on Tuesdays

[Report a problem with a road or pavement](#) or [raise a highways related enquiry](#)

Follow us at  [@WSHighways](#)



From: [Redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2024 9:15 AM
To: [Redacted]
Subject: FW: Trees - Church of Scientology, Saint Hill Road, East Grinstead

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2024 8:57 AM
To: [Redacted]
[Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Trees - Church of Scientology, Saint Hill Road, East Grinstead

Hi [Redacted],

Thank you for this update. Absolutely and it is frustrating to only now be told/learn about these trees, given that they have been in situ for several years.

It is going to be difficult to ascertain who planted these trees and even if we were under the assumption that the Church was responsible, it would be virtually impossible to prove this.

I have discussed this again with Adam and the only other option at this time would be that we

remove the trees completely, as they are on Highways land.

Thank you for the clarification on this, I had thought I had remembered this correctly from my initial training with yourself but wanted to confirm the process in this case.

If you could please let me know your thoughts on whether removing the trees is in the best interest of the public, I will then also discuss this with Legal to ensure we are covering ourselves, from a legal standing.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Assistant Area Highway Manager – Eastern Area
Economy, Infrastructure & Environment – Highways, Transport and Planning
West Sussex County Council

[REDACTED]

 Did you know you can follow West Sussex Highways on Twitter?
[@WSHighways](https://twitter.com/WSHighways)
We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2024 8:14 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Trees - Church of Scientology, Saint Hill Road, East Grinstead

Morning [REDACTED]

These trees that have been planted are certainly not ideal as they are look to a type of leylandii/confer which can be fast growing, also I note they have put in a kerb line. Someone has gone to some expense to do this. Maintenance of these would be expensive as they are so close to the road and would probably need trimming back often, not to mention if they were allowed to grow to any kind of height. To undertake this work traffic management would also be required, so one wonders who, when and with what equipment and what permissions (ie tm) these are being cut as they do look as if someone is maintaining them at this time, how long that will last, who knows. Ideally we would prefer that an owner be found and they be removed.

We map as many trees as we are able to, but no, the whole network is not mapped. In cases such as these, if maintenance is required the Arb will visit and if necessary make an asset on confirm under private works. A job would be raised on a without prejudice basis.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2024 12:39 PM
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: Trees - Church of Scientology, Saint Hill Road, East Grinstead

Morning [REDACTED],

I just wanted to make you aware of an enquiry I am currently working on, for the below location:

Opp Church of Scientology, Saint Hill Rd, East Grinstead, RH19 4JY

E:538152 , N:136137

The main point to note for yourself and your team, is that several trees have been planted opposite the entrance to the Church of Scientology in East Grinstead, which falls within our Highway boundary. We do not know when or by whom the trees were planted, although according to Google imagery they were planted sometime between June 2011 and September 2016. After discussions with the Legal Team, it is considered not in the public interest to pursue the removal of these established trees and therefore, they will note that there is an obstruction on the highway but that we consider that it is not in the public interest to pursue at this time on the land charges map.

As a result, this would essentially mean we are adopting the trees which have been planted and Adam was conscious of putting this on yours and your team's radar. I do not know if we map every single tree within our network, but not being a tree expert myself, I have no idea which trees these are and whether they would fall under any maintenance or wider work programs in the future.

I have attached the original documentation we received from a resident, via Cllr Jacque Russell which shows the trees and explains the issues in more detail; trees shown on page 2.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Assistant Area Highway Manager – Eastern Area
Economy, Infrastructure & Environment – Highways, Transport and Planning
West Sussex County Council

[REDACTED]

 Did you know you can follow West Sussex Highways on Twitter?
[@WSHighways](https://twitter.com/WSHighways)

We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

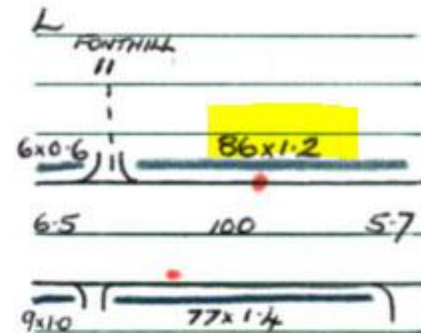
Photographs of the planters obstructing the public highway on the south side of the entrance



And the north side

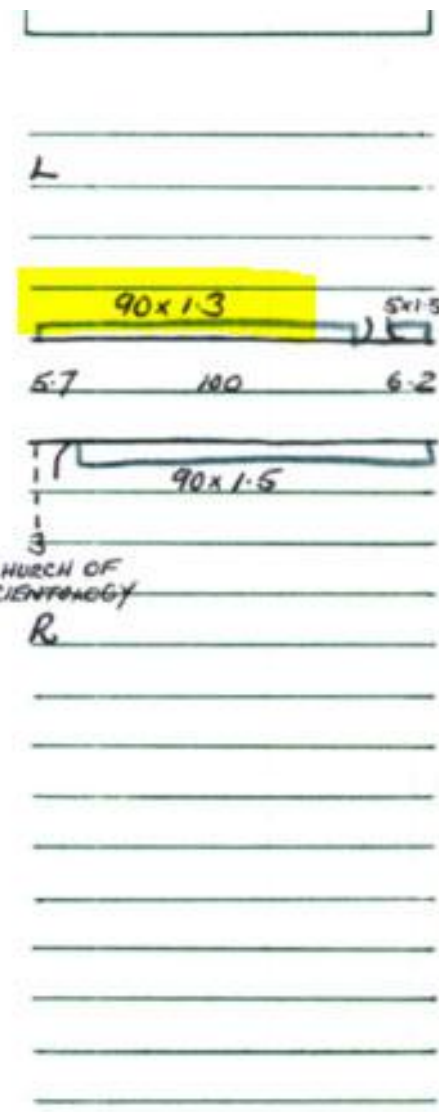


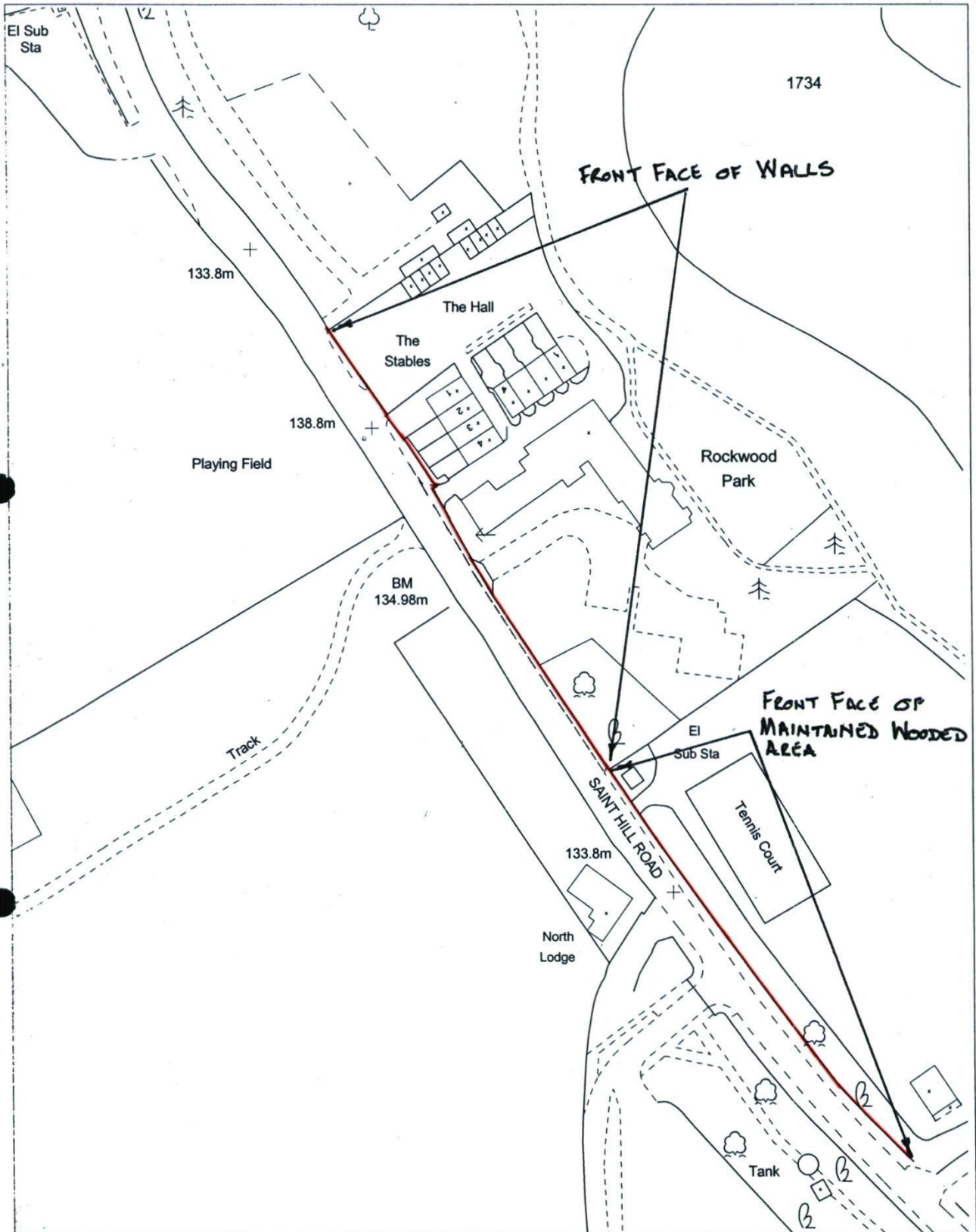
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	24	25
0,1	9	08	CCWAY				6.5, 100, 5.7	
0,2	9							
0,3	9							
0,4	9							
0,5	9		RMS				100	
0,6	9		RCNUK				9+77	
0,7	9		RSMSC				9+77	
0,8	9		RSMφC				9x1.0, 77x1.4	
0,9	9		RUKCH				1	
1,0	9							
1,1	9							
1,2	9							
1,3	9		LMS				100	
1,4	9		LCNUK				86+6	
1,5	9		LSMSC				86+6	
1,6	9		LSMφC				86x1.2, 6x0.6	
1,7	9	√	LKφG				1	
1,8	9							
1,9	9							



R

		S/S	P	ITEM	DATA - PUNCH AS SEEN			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	24	25
0	1	9		09 C MAY	5.7, 100, 6.2			
0	2	9						
0	3	9						
0	4	9						
0	5	9		RMS	100			
0	6	9		RCWUK	90			
0	7	9		RSMSC	90			
0	8	9		RSMφC	90x1.5			
0	9	9		RPφSTS	2			
1	0	9						
1	1	9						
1	2	9						
1	3	9		LMS	100			
1	4	9		LCWUK	90+5			
1	5	9		LMSMC	90+5			
1	6	9	✓	LSMφC	90x1.3, 5x1.5			
1	7	9						
1	8	9						
1	9	9						
2	0	0						





Reproduced from or based upon the 2003 Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of HMSO (c) Crown Copyright reserved. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. West Sussex County Council Licence No. 100018485.



Highways & Transport
26/10/04

1:1250



Highways & Transport
(01243) 642105
[ZZZ_ZHVWVXVVHJ_JRY_XN_URDG_XLU\](#)

West Sussex County
Council
Jobs Depot ,
Pookbourne Lane
Hickstead
BN6 9HD



Private and Confidential
Occupier
Church of Scientology
Saint Hill Road
East Grinstead
West Sussex
RH19 4JY

25th September 2024

Dear Sir

I refer to my recent letter regarding the planters and banner erected on the highway outside of your gates.

It has also come to our attention that a row of trees, a fence and posts have also been erected on the opposite side of the road to your entrance. Unfortunately, these items are all within the publicly maintainable highway and so will need to be removed within 28 days of the date of this letter. I appreciate that this may have been done by another landowner and we are therefore writing to others in the area to the same effect.

Please feel free to contact me to discuss this matter further should you so wish.

Yours faithfully


Assistant Area Highway Manager
West Sussex County Council

Private and Confidential
Occupier
Church of Scientology
Saint Hill Road
East Grinstead
RH19 4JY

18th September 2024

Dear Sir

As you may be aware, West Sussex County Council is the Highway Authority for West Sussex and as such, has a duty to assert and protect the rights of the public to the use and enjoyment of the highway under the provisions of the Highways Act 1980.

It has been brought to our attention that a banner and planters were erected on the highway last year, advertising your church's annual event, please see imagery below:




I should point out that, unfortunately, this is classed as an unlawful obstruction of the highway, so I should be very grateful if you would kindly make alternative arrangements this year to avoid depositing or erecting anything on the highway.

For your assistance, I enclose a plan showing the extent of publicly maintainable highway in the vicinity of the access to the Church in pink. I would also add that it might also be advisable to contact the District Council to ensure that no advertising regulations are broken by the erection of the banner.

Please feel free to contact me to discuss this matter further should you so wish.

Yours faithfully


Assistant Area Highway Manager
West Sussex County Council



Enc: WSCC Highway Boundary

From: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Date: [REDACTED]
Re[2]: FW: Meeting to discuss Church of Scientology/Highway boundary
17 October [REDACTED]

****EXTERNAL****

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your reply. I understand with regards to hoarding – which would be on our land rather than the Highway, as we discussed. But, we will work out another solution to keep our visitors safe who have to walk up the road.

In relation to the hedge on the other side, as we discussed we would like to work with the Council to find the best way of dealing with this. The current hedge was planted more than a decade ago with the approval of the Highway Authority, and has been maintained by us. You said that this was not an urgent matter. Can we suggest a meeting on the site to discuss the best handling in due course.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

----- O
From [REDACTED]
To [REDACTED]
Cc [REDACTED]
Date 17/10/2024 15:31:34
Subject RE: FW: Meeting to discuss Church of Scientology/Highway boundary

Good afternoon, [REDACTED]

Apologies for missing your call, I was in a meeting at the time.

Following discussions with our Highway Operations Manager [REDACTED] he has confirmed that we are unable to support a hoarding licence application for the area in question, as the safety requirements would not be able to be met; this includes the required safety zone between the carriageway and footway.

West Sussex County Council as the Highway Authority for West Sussex has a duty to assert and protect the rights of the public to the use and enjoyment of the highway under the provisions of the Highways Act 1980, and as previously addressed, any

items deposited or erected on the highway will be classed as an unlawful obstruction.

We are currently reviewing the trees that are planted within the highway boundary; however, I must make you aware that it is likely we will seek their removal.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Assistant Area Highway Manager – Eastern Area

Economy, Infrastructure & Environment – Highways, Transport and Planning

West Sussex County Council

[REDACTED]

 Did you know you can follow West Sussex Highways on Twitter?
[@WSHighways](https://twitter.com/WSHighways)

We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: W [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ology/Highway boundary

****EXTERNAL****

Dear [REDACTED],

I wanted to thank you again for the meeting. Following from this I was attempting to submit the application for a license to put up a barrier on the verge for the three days. Per the Terms & Conditions for getting a license for hoarding & scaffolding it says 5 days prior - however on the online form it is requiring 15 days. We're not putting up scaffolding or anything major, but a barrier to mark the path so we keep people off the carriageway.

Can you direct me if there is another online form or form that I can fill out for this - or do I need to go to WSCC to apply in person?

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

----- Original Message -----

From '[REDACTED]

To '[REDACTED]

Date 15/10/2024 09:00:12

Subject FW: Meeting to discuss Church of Scientology/Highway boundary

Sent from my Galaxy

----- Original message -----

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 15/10/2024 08:05 (GMT+00:00)

[REDACTED]

Subject: Meeting to discuss Church of Scientology/Highway boundary

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

LEGAL DISCLAIMER

This email and any attachments are confidential and intended solely for the persons addressed. If it has come to you in error please reply to advise us but you should not read it, copy it, show it to anyone else nor make any other use of its content. West Sussex County Council takes steps to ensure emails and attachments are virus-free but you should carry out your own checks before opening any attachment.



CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click link or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re[2]: reply to your of 18 & 25 Sept
Date: 13 October [REDACTED]

****EXTERNAL****

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you very much. Yes, Tuesday at 12 noon is fine and we'll send you a teams link.
Speak soon,

Kind regards, [REDACTED]

----- Original Message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 10/10/2024 15:02:39
Subject: RE: reply to your of 18 & 25 Sept

Good afternoon [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email and I apologise for the delay in coming back to you, however, I did not receive your first email dated 1st October 2024 and have been away from the office, in training so far this week.

It would be helpful to have a meeting for us to discuss this matter, would you be available next **Tuesday, 15th October at 12pm?**

Additionally, can you please provide me with a copy of any agreement or documentation regarding approval by West Sussex County Council, as you have mentioned.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Assistant Area Highway Manager – Eastern Area
Economy, Infrastructure & Environment – Highways, Transport and Planning
West Sussex County Council

[REDACTED]

 Did you know you can follow West Sussex Highways on Twitter?
[@WSHighways](https://twitter.com/WSHighways)

We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 11:13 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: reply to your of 18 & 25 Sept

EXTERNAL

Dear [REDACTED]

I do not appear to have received a response to my email below, requesting a Teams or Zoom meeting. I am therefore sending it again, together with its attachment. I would be grateful for a reply today.

Since sending that email, I have also done further research regarding the extent of the Highway land where it borders our property at Saint Hill. It is, in fact quite clear that the plan that you sent us showing the Highway land in purple is not correct.

It appears instead that the Highway land on that border ends at the edge of the hard road. In particular, the whole of the bell mouth at the entrance to Saint Hill, including the paving slabs laid there belong to us, and are not part of the Highway. Similarly, the grass verge running down the hill towards the South Lodge, is also our property and not part of the Highway.

The current entrance gate to Saint Hill, including the paving around the bell mouth, was constructed in 1990 in accordance with a planning permission granted by Mid Sussex District Council on 8th May 1990 – following full consultations with the County Surveyor and Highways. It was accepted by all parties that this construction was entirely on Church land, and no other permission was required from any other landowner. Prior to this the entrance had been directly next to North Lodge.

Prior to the construction of the new entrance the boundary fence ran along next to the road. The wall that was built by us was set back in order to improve visibility and also to provide an area down the side of the road which could occasionally be used for overflow parking when big functions occurred at the Church. The verge that was created by us has only ever been maintained by the Church. You will note that that verge does not exist further down towards South Lodge, nor along the entire length of the North Lodge land bordering the road.

Similarly, the small area of our paving outside of the entrance has only ever been maintained by the Church.

Also of interest is the fact that the planning permission allows us to put things on that paved area up to 60 cm above the level of the adjoining carriageway. That height restriction was intended to ensure that visibility lines were maintained for cars exiting the property through that gate.

I look forward to hearing from you later today.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
External Affairs Director

West Sussex highways not only approved it more than a decade ago, but clearly have had no issues with it since.

The person who has complained now is someone who wishes to be able to stand there protesting, obstructing the traffic and recreating the dangerous conditions that were the reason that the police recommended it in the first place.

Please let me know when you are free to meet.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Church of Scientology

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

LEGAL DISCLAIMER

This email and any attachments are confidential and intended solely for the persons addressed. If it has come to you in error please reply to advise us but you should not read it, copy it, show it to anyone else nor make any other use of its content. West Sussex County Council takes steps to ensure emails and attachments are virus-free but you should carry out your own checks before opening any attachment.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

From: [Janet Laveau](#)
To: [Benjamin Whiffin](#)
Cc: [Adam Denby](#); [Gemma Wallis](#); [Peter Hodkin](#)
Subject: Re[4]: FW: Meeting to discuss Church of Scientology/Highway boundary
Date: 23 October 2024 00:09:00
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

****EXTERNAL****

Dear Mr [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email. I suggest that it would be helpful if [REDACTED] would review their notes of our discussion on Tuesday last, which we have an accurate record of and is the basis of how we are proceeding.

I fully appreciate that West Sussex Highway authority is coming under a lot of pressure from people who wish only to discriminate and incite hatred against our religion. However, the Highway Authority needs to be very careful about attempts to be drawn into doing the same. This would not only be improper, but also illegal under our laws which protect against discrimination and mandate equal and proportionate treatment.

As your colleagues know, and I had hoped would have communicated to you, what we have done in this area, and as we discussed, and will do, was specifically done on the advice and recommendation of the police. They advised this as they observed people standing across from our entrance poking their heads out from the trees with cars passing by at 60 mph. It has been entirely concerned with improving safety while also containing unlawful public disorder from occurring on and next to this small area of highway.

The facts have been distorted by these few people and the highways authority should not allow itself to be used by people who wish only to discriminate and incite hatred based on religion, but should instead act in the proportionate and sensible way it has acted thus far.

Permitting people to stand on the Church's own property to shout at, intimidate and harass our members who are coming to their Church - is not right – no matter how someone might want to twist things.

To reiterate, the hedge opposite the Church entrance was planted more than a decade ago on the advice of Police Inspector Scott, because safety in that area of the highway was a serious risk because people were placing themselves in between the trees and would step onto the carriageway or poke their heads out that could easily have been hit by cars flying past. That was the frightening reality and it has obviously been seen by your authority many times in the intervening years without any issues being raised. As your colleagues know, it was specifically inspected by the Highway Authority on 29 April 2013, when your inspector told us the hedge was fine so long as we keep it trimmed. It was also inspected by you on 22nd November 2023, when the same advice was given. Removing the hedge reverts back to that dangerous setup and I really don't think that is in anyone's best interest or what is wanted by anyone.

As we have said we are happy to continue to work with you to keep this area as safe as possible.

In relation to the other side, we are aware of the position regarding highways and ownership.

However, the evidence points to the area we laid paving slabs at the Church entrance, not being part of the Highway. As your colleagues are aware, and have no doubt now investigated for themselves, that entrance was constructed on the Church's land back in

1990, in accordance with a planning permission given by Mid Sussex District Council. The County Engineer was fully consulted, and at no time was it asserted that the area was part of the Highway, or that the permission of the Highways Authority was required for this work.

At that same time, we set back the wall that goes down towards the south gate, to improve sight lines.

What we do at our entrance, and what occurs from time to time down the side of the highway here, are all part of the normal life of our local community. There is nothing extraordinary about them, and they generally improve safety.

The Highway Authority needs to come and talk to us to resolve our very real concerns, and we will work together to address them, not write to us precipitously and without proper regard for the actual facts and history. They should not allow themselves to be used as part of a campaign by people who wish to destroy religion.

Can I therefore suggest that after we get through with this busy week, we get together again and reach agreement on matters? This was essentially what we agreed with your colleagues last Tuesday.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

----- Original Message -----

From: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject RE: Re[2]: FW: Meeting to discuss Church of Scientology/Highway boundary

Good morning, [REDACTED],

[REDACTED] has been keeping me updated with regards ongoing discussions on this matter. I thought it would be worth just reiterating the County Council's position relating to a number of points discussed previously, as there would appear to still be some confusion:

- The highway boundary is shown in pink on the attached 1:1250 scale plans (north and south lodge). This land is not owned by the County Council, but the existence of highway rights over it means that it is under the control of this council as Highway Authority (HA) for West Sussex. Private ownership rights are irrelevant in these cases, as the highway rights always take precedence, and hence the Church is not permitted to interfere with the land without the consent of this council.
- As I understand it, we have not been presented with any evidence to the contrary, and therefore it would be an offence to position anything within the land shaded pink on the attached plans. Furthermore, if an incident/accident were to occur as a result of

any illegally positioned obstruction, it is likely that any Public Liability Insurance in place would be invalid, and that liability would sit directly with the Church. I would strongly advise you to seek independent legal advice before positioning items on the public highway unlawfully.

- We would be happy to discuss the tree issue further, subject to receiving any paperwork or correspondence relating to any consent the Church believes was in place at the time. As far as I am aware, this has not been forthcoming.

I look forward to receiving information pertaining to the tree agreement, and please let me know if you have any further questions.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Highway Operations Manager – Eastern

Place Services

Highways, Planning and Transport

West Sussex County Council

[REDACTED]

We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

[Report a problem with a road or pavement](#) or [raise a highways related enquiry](#)

Follow us at [@WSHighways](#)

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2024 4:18 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re[2]: FW: Meeting to discuss Church of Scientology/Highway boundary

****EXTERNAL****

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your reply. I understand with regards to hoarding – which would be on our land rather than the Highway, as we discussed. But, we will work out another solution to keep our visitors safe who have to walk up the road.

In relation to the hedge on the other side, as we discussed we would like to work with the Council to find the best way of dealing with this. The current hedge was planted more than a decade ago with the approval of the Highway Authority, and has been maintained by us. You said that this was not an urgent matter. Can we suggest a meeting on the site to discuss the best handling in due course.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

----- Original Message -----

From [REDACTED]

To [REDACTED] >

[REDACTED]

Date 17/10/2024 15:31:34

Subject RE: FW: Meeting to discuss Church of Scientology/Highway boundary

Good afternoon, [REDACTED],

Apologies for missing your call, I was in a meeting at the time.

Following discussions with our Highway Operations Manager [REDACTED], he has confirmed that we are unable to support a hoarding licence application for the area in question, as the safety requirements would not be able to be met; this includes the required safety zone between the carriageway and footway.

West Sussex County Council as the Highway Authority for West Sussex has a duty to assert and protect the rights of the public to the use and enjoyment of the highway under the provisions of the Highways Act 1980, and as previously addressed, any items deposited or erected on the highway will be classed as an unlawful obstruction.

We are currently reviewing the trees that are planted within the highway boundary; however, I must make you aware that it is likely we will seek their removal.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Assistant Area Highway Manager – Eastern Area

Economy, Infrastructure & Environment – Highways, Transport and Planning

West Sussex County Council

[REDACTED]

 [REDACTED] you know you can follow West Sussex Highways on Twitter?
[@WSHighways](https://twitter.com/WSHighways)

We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 9:39 PM

[Redacted]

Meeting to discuss Church of Scientology/Highway boundary

****EXTERNAL****

Dear [Redacted],

I wanted to thank you again for the meeting. Following from this I was attempting to submit the application for a license to put up a barrier on the verge for the three days. Per the Terms & Conditions for getting a license for hoarding & scaffolding it says 5 days prior - however on the online form it is requiring 15 days. We're not putting up scaffolding or anything major, but a barrier to mark the path so we keep people off the carriageway.

Can you direct me if there is another online form or form that I can fill out for this - or do I need to go to WSCC to apply in person?

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

----- Original Message -----

From: [Redacted] >

To: [Redacted]

Date: 15/10/2024 09:00:12

Subject: FW: Meeting to discuss Church of Scientology/Highway boundary

Sent from my Galaxy

----- Original message -----

From:

[REDACTED]

Date: 15/10/2024 08:05 (GMT+00:00)

[REDACTED]

Subject: Meeting to discuss Church of Scientology/Highway boundary

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

LEGAL DISCLAIMER

This email and any attachments are confidential and intended solely for the persons addressed. If it has come to you in error please reply to advise us but you should not read it, copy it, show it to anyone else nor make any other use of its content. West Sussex County Council takes steps to ensure emails and attachments are virus-free but you should carry out your own checks before opening any attachment.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

From: [Janet Laveau](#)
To: [Benjamin Whiffin](#); [Peter Hodkin](#)
Cc: [Michele Hulme](#); [Adam Denby](#); [Gemma Wallis](#)
Subject: Ref[8]: FW: Meeting to discuss Church of Scientology/Highway boundary
Date: 14 January 2025 17:11:55
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

EXTERNAL

Dear Mr [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email.

In my email of 9th December 2024 I requested that you arranged for the decisions of yourself be independently reviewed, as they appeared to violate the Equality Act. I set out detailed reasons for this. Whilst you responded to the email instantly, you did not say what you had done with this complaint. I would be grateful for an update on that.

I would also be grateful if, further to the Freedom of Information Act, you would also arrange for me to be sent a copy of all of the material which will need to be seen by the independent reviewer. In other words, please send me a copy of all the correspondence of any kind (letters, emails, texts etc) that yourself and anyone else in the Highway department have received or sent concerning this hedge and the entrance to the Saint Hill Church, together with all internal notes, reports and communications.

I will address what you do say in your email separately.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

----- Original Message -----

From [REDACTED]

Subject Re: Re[6]: FW: Meeting to discuss Church of Scientology/Highway boundary

Dear Mr [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email and my sincere apologies for the delay in responding. I wish to emphasise that we have no issue with any arrangements for ensuring that the hedge on the opposite side of the road is safe and appropriate for the Highway.

From your email below I note that you accept that it presented no problem as

recently as last November. In other words, from the time it was planted on the recommendation of Sussex Police, more than a decade ago, until this year, Highways have been happy with it. We have a record of the inspection having been done by Highways on 29th April 2013, and the advice provided by Highways at that time – which I can share with you. But that may be immaterial if action is now needed to make it safe. I am happy to discuss with you the best way of dealing with it going forwards – bearing in mind that it was originally put there as a Highway safety measure. Maybe a wire fence could be placed along there? Or some other planting scheme?

However, I do wish to raise the point that, if you look all along the Highway down Saint Hill Road, you will note that this section provides better visibility than much of the rest of the road. That is because it is tidy and it is kept maintained. That leaves me with a strong suspicion that you singling out this specific section of the Highway is motivated by an anti-Scientology sentiment, and was not the genuine Highways' priority that your department's actions would indicate.

Indeed, this also appears strongly to be the case with your email below, dated 24th October 2024.

Because of this, I would be grateful if you would arrange for the email of 24th October in particular, but also your recent communications to us regarding Saint Hill Road, to be independently reviewed to ensure that the Highways Department has acted in compliance with the legal obligations of the Council under the Equality Act 2010.

As you know Scientology is a recognised religion in the United Kingdom, following the ruling of the Supreme Court in 2013. Moreover, the Church of Scientology premises on Saint Hill Road are a registered Public Place of Religious Worship. We are therefore concerned with the entrance to a recognised place of worship. As such it is a particularly sensitive area.

Under section 10 of the Equality Act, religion is a protected characteristic. Under section 13 it is unlawful discrimination to treat someone less favourably than one would treat others because of a protected characteristic. Section 149, states that the Council, as a public authority, "must , in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to ... eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or

under this Act” .

On the face of it, you have failed to comply with this duty, in recent engagements with the Church concerning the Highway next to the place of religious worship on Saint Hill Road. This is why I would like this to be independently reviewed.

This is particularly highlighted by your email below, dated 24 October 2024, where you threaten the Church with instant draconian action and cost.

In that email you say:

“It has been brought to my attention that planters (shown in photos taken today) have been positioned on the highway in the vicinity of the Church.

I am providing notice that if they remain in place tomorrow, I will have them removed and stored at one of our highway depots. I will also seek to recover costs of undertaking this work from whoever is responsible for placing these unlawful obstructions on the highway. If I am not able to establish who placed them on the highway, they will be stored for a period of time and then disposed of.

If you are responsible for placing them on the highway – please organise for them to be removed by 10am tomorrow.”

The two photographs provided show a small narrow planter right against the wall on one side and a line of planters demarking a walkway separate from the road on the other side. In fact, these had been put there in error, as the decision had been made not to have such planters (even though they had been specifically requested recommended by the police), and they were removed. But the fact that you would consider it appropriate to send such a draconian email is extremely troubling.

The following facts are relevant:

1. Notwithstanding the fact the Police Inspector had requested the planters be put there or he would have to put police officers there instead, The obstruction to the Highway presented by the planters in the photographs was trivial at best. There are hundreds of far worse examples all over East Grinstead at any given time. Yet you considered this so egregious that you were willing to spend Council money to immediately remove them, and threaten others with that cost. It is evident that this was only because they were placed at the entrance of the Church of Scientology – in other words you were treating Scientologists less favourably than you treat others.

2. Your urgency in securing the removal of these trivial obstructions was only because you had received a complaint from an anti-Scientologist, and an agent for that anti-Scientologist, who wanted to stand in that area as part of an anti-Scientology protest coinciding with the International Association of Scientologists event taking place the next day. In other words your urgency was not driven by normal Highways priorities and concerns, but rather to facilitate an anti-Scientology protest at the entrance to the place of worship. This was direct discrimination.

3. The planters had been there in more abundance in earlier years. We were told by [REDACTED] at our meeting with her on 15th October 2024 that they were there specifically on the recommendation of the Police who would be policing the protest. The police considered that they improved public safety and order. In other words, your insistence on the immediate removal of the planters was against the wishes and advice of the police. Because the planters would be there on the advice of the police, there was clearly a lawful excuse for them to be there – and no offence was committed under the Highways Act. Highways were well aware of this, but still you made the threat, at the instigation of the anti-Scientologist and his agent. That is harassment and discrimination – contrary to section 149 of the Act.

4. Contrast this email with the one you sent to [REDACTED] only the day before, on 23rd October. [REDACTED] had pointed out to you in an email earlier on 23rd October that as the police had designated a space for the protestors to hold their protest a little down the road (which [REDACTED] also told us about at our meeting), that the protestors could not rely on the Human Rights Acts if they chose instead to obstruct the Highway at the entrance to the Church. You replied that “Unlawful use of the public highway in this context would be a matter for Sussex Police”. Yet, according to you, it was not a matter for the Sussex Police, when it came to members of the Church doing something at their entrance.

5. At the meeting with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], on 15th October, after Ms Wallis told us that the police recommended that planters be put there, we indicated to her that we would put them there again this year. They made no objection to this at all. Although we subsequently changed our mind, you were not to know that, and your letter represented a complete volte face by the Council – as a result, apparently of further pressure put on you by the anti-Scientologist.

My conclusion is that you have treated us less favourably because of our religion. If you have, then you have acted unlawfully under the Equality Act, and this is why I ask you to arrange for it to be independently reviewed by an appropriate person at the Council. Scientologists are entitled to the same treatment as other religions – and I think if you substitute a Jewish Synagogue and an anti-Jew for Scientology in the above facts it helps to emphasise the breaches of the Act.

Please let me know how this complaint under the Equality Act is being dealt with.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

External Affairs Director

Church of Scientology United Kingdom

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

www.scientology.org.uk

www.scientology.tv

Church of Scientology Religious Education College Inc. a non-profit association with limited liability incorporated in South Australia (CBS A5172) and registered in England (BR018355). Registered agent in the UK: Peter Hodkin, Solicitor, 42-44 Copthorne Road, Felbridge RH19 2NS

From: [REDACTED]

Date: M [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Re[6]: FW: Meeting to discuss Church of Scientology/Highway boundary

Good afternoon, [REDACTED],

Just following up in respect of the last bullet point on my email of the 18 October 2024 pertaining to the tree planting opposite the entrance to your site. I am able to confirm that the inspection referred to on 22nd November 2023 related to the hedge encroaching into the carriageway, with feedback to confirm that this was not an issue at the time of inspection. The Highway Steward would not have been aware of the matter we have been discussing, and hence made no judgement in relation to it. We have no record of any inspection undertaken in April 2013 and so if you have any written confirmation, please do provide a copy.

Our position in relation to the trees has not changed, and I would afford you one last opportunity to provide us with a copy of any written agreement that you have from West Sussex County Council in relation to their planting within the public highway.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Highway Operations Manager – Eastern

Place Services

Highways, Planning and Transport

West Sussex County Council

[REDACTED]

We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

[Report a problem with a road or pavement](#) or [raise a highways related enquiry](#)

Follow us at [@WSHighways](#)

From: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

S [REDACTED] ss Church of Scientology/Highway boundary

****EXTERNAL****

Thank you [REDACTED],

It seems the memo didn't make it all the way to the grass routes level. They are being removed as we speak.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

----- Original Message -----

From [REDACTED]

To [REDACTED]

C [REDACTED]

Date 24/10/2024 15:51:43

Subject RE: Re[4]: FW: Meeting to discuss Church of Scientology/Highway boundary

Good afternoon both,

It has been brought to my attention that planters (shown in photos taken today) have been positioned on the highway in the vicinity of the Church.

I am providing notice that if they remain in place tomorrow, I will have them removed and stored at one of our highway depots. I will also seek to recover costs of undertaking this work from whoever is responsible for placing these unlawful obstructions on the highway. If I am not able to establish who placed them on the highway, they will be stored for a period of time and then disposed of.

If you are responsible for placing them on the highway – please organise for them to be removed by 10am tomorrow. Equally, if you know who has, please advise them of the contents of this email.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Highway Operations Manager – Eastern

Place Services

Highways, Planning and Transport

West Sussex County Council

[REDACTED]

642105/07894589434 |

We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

[Report a problem with a road or pavement](#) or [raise a highways related enquiry](#)

Follow us at [@WSHighways](#)

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 23 October 2024 00:11

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] undary

Dear Mr [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email. I suggest that it would be helpful if [REDACTED] would review their notes of our discussion on Tuesday last, which we have an accurate record of and is the basis of how we are proceeding.

I fully appreciate that West Sussex Highway authority is coming under a lot of pressure from people who wish only to discriminate and incite hatred against our religion. However, the Highway Authority needs to be very careful about attempts to be drawn into doing the same. This would not only be improper, but also illegal under our laws which protect against discrimination and mandate equal and proportionate treatment.

As your colleagues know, and I had hoped would have communicated to you, what we have done in this area, and as we discussed, and will do, was specifically done on the advice and recommendation of the police. They advised this as they observed people standing across from our entrance poking their heads out from the trees with cars passing by at 60 mph. It has been entirely concerned with improving safety while also containing unlawful public disorder from occurring on and next to this small area of highway.

The facts have been distorted by these few people and the highways authority should not allow itself to be used by people who wish only to discriminate and incite hatred based on religion, but should instead act in the proportionate and sensible way it has acted thus far.

Permitting people to stand on the Church's own property to shout at, intimidate and harass our members who are coming to their Church - is not right - no matter how someone might want to twist things.

To reiterate, the hedge opposite the Church entrance was planted more than a decade ago

on the advice of Police Inspector Scott, because safety in that area of the highway was a serious risk because people were placing themselves in between the trees and would step onto the carriageway or poke their heads out that could easily have been hit by cars flying past. That was the frightening reality and it has obviously been seen by your authority many times in the intervening years without any issues being raised. As your colleagues know, it was specifically inspected by the Highway Authority on 29 April 2013, when your inspector told us the hedge was fine so long as we keep it trimmed. It was also inspected by you on 22nd November 2023, when the same advice was given. Removing the hedge reverts back to that dangerous setup and I really don't think that is in anyone's best interest or what is wanted by anyone.

As we have said we are happy to continue to work with you to keep this area as safe as possible.

In relation to the other side, we are aware of the position regarding highways and ownership.

However, the evidence points to the area we laid paving slabs at the Church entrance, not being part of the Highway. As your colleagues are aware, and have no doubt now investigated for themselves, that entrance was constructed on the Church's land back in 1990, in accordance with a planning permission given by Mid Sussex District Council. The County Engineer was fully consulted, and at no time was it asserted that the area was part of the Highway, or that the permission of the Highways Authority was required for this work.

At that same time, we set back the wall that goes down towards the south gate, to improve sight lines.

What we do at our entrance, and what occurs from time to time down the side of the highway here, are all part of the normal life of our local community. There is nothing extraordinary about them, and they generally improve safety.

The Highway Authority needs to come and talk to us to resolve our very real concerns, and we will work together to address them, not write to us precipitously and without proper regard for the actual facts and history. They should not allow themselves to be used as part of a campaign by people who wish to destroy religion.

Can I therefore suggest that after we get through with this busy week, we get together again and reach agreement on matters? This was essentially what we agreed with your colleagues last Tuesday.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

----- Original Message -----

From "[REDACTED]"

To "[REDACTED]"

[REDACTED]

Date 18/10/2024 10:45:59

Subject RE: Re[2]: FW: Meeting to discuss Church of Scientology/Highway boundary

Good morning, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has been keeping me updated with regards ongoing discussions on this matter. I thought it would be worth just reiterating the County Council's position relating to a number of points discussed previously, as there would appear to still be some confusion:

- The highway boundary is shown in pink on the attached 1:1250 scale plans (north and south lodge). This land is not owned by the County Council, but the existence of highway rights over it means that it is under the control of this council as Highway Authority (HA) for West Sussex. Private ownership rights are irrelevant in these cases, as the highway rights always take precedence, and hence the Church is not permitted to interfere with the land without the consent of this council.
- As I understand it, we have not been presented with any evidence to the contrary, and therefore it would be an offence to position anything within the land shaded pink on the attached plans. Furthermore, if an incident/accident were to occur as a result of any illegally positioned obstruction, it is likely that any Public Liability Insurance in place would be invalid, and that liability would sit directly with the Church. I would strongly advise you to seek independent legal advice before positioning items on the public highway unlawfully.
- We would be happy to discuss the tree issue further, subject to receiving any paperwork or correspondence relating to any consent the Church believes was in place at the time. As far as I am aware, this has not been forthcoming.

I look forward to receiving information pertaining to the tree agreement, and please let me know if you have any further questions.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Highway Operations Manager – Eastern

Place Services

Highways, Planning and Transport

[REDACTED]

We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

[Report a problem with a road or pavement](#) or [raise a highways related enquiry](#)

Follow us at [@WSHighways](#)

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: [REDACTED]

To: [REDACTED]

Church of Scientology/Highway boundary

****EXTERNAL****

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your reply. I understand with regards to hoarding – which would be on our land rather than the Highway, as we discussed. But, we will work out another solution to keep our visitors safe who have to walk up the road.

In relation to the hedge on the other side, as we discussed we would like to work with the Council to find the best way of dealing with this. The current hedge was planted more than a decade ago with the approval of the Highway Authority, and has been maintained by us. You said that this was not an urgent matter. Can we suggest a meeting on the site to discuss the best handling in due course.

Kind regards

Janet

----- Original Message -----

From "

To

Date 17/10/2024 15:31:34

Subject RE: FW: Meeting to discuss Church of Scientology/Highway boundary

Good afternoon, [REDACTED],

Apologies for missing your call, I was in a meeting at the time.

Following discussions with our Highway Operations Manager [REDACTED] he has confirmed that we are unable to support a hoarding lic for the area in question, as the safety requirements would not be able to be met; this includes the required safety zone between the carriageway and footway.

West Sussex County Council as the Highway Authority for West Sussex has a duty to assert and protect the rights of the public to the use and enjoyment of the highway under the provisions of the Highways Act 1980, and as previously addressed, any items deposited or erected on the highway will be classed as an unlawful obstruction.

We are currently reviewing the trees that are planted within the highway boundary; however, I must make you aware that it is likely we will seek their removal.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Assistant Area Highway Manager – Eastern Area

[REDACTED]

 [REDACTED] you know you can follow West Sussex Highways on Twitter? [@WSHighways](https://twitter.com/WSHighways)

We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 9:39 PM
To: [REDACTED]

S [REDACTED] discuss Church of Scientology/Highway boundary

****EXTERNAL****

Dear [REDACTED],

I wanted to thank you again for the meeting. Following from this I was attempting to submit the application for a license to put up a barrier on the verge for the three days. Per the Terms & Conditions for getting a license for hoarding & scaffolding it says 5 days prior - however on the online form it is requiring 15 days. We're not putting up scaffolding or anything major, but a barrier to mark the path so we keep people off the carriageway.

Can you direct me if there is another online form or form that I can fill out for this - or do I need to go to WSCC to apply in person?

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

----- Original Message -----

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] >

Date 15/10/2024 09:00:12

Subject FW: Meeting to discuss Church of Scientology/Highway boundary

Sent from my Galaxy

----- Original message -----

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 15/10/2024 08:05 (GMT+00:00)

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Meeting to discuss Church of Scientology/Highway boundary

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

LEGAL DISCLAIMER

This email and any attachments are confidential and intended solely for the persons addressed. If it has come to you in error please reply to advise us but you should not read it, copy it, show it to anyone else nor make any other use of its content. West Sussex County Council takes steps to ensure emails and attachments are virus-free but you should carry out your own checks before opening any attachment.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Annual Event at the Church of Scientology Saint Hill Road East Grinstead
Date: 13 September 2024 12:10:52
Attachments: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Further to our telephone call, I confirm the points we discussed earlier.

???. Trees should not be planted within 15 feet of the centre line of the carriageway (s141 HA 80) or within the highway without a licence (S142). In addition, we have the right to abate a nuisance to the highway. I have looked at Google Street View, and see that the trees were actually planted some time ago – they appear in the 2016 view so they have in fact been there for some time.

???. The planters on the highway would be classed as structures and being unauthorised, would also be unlawful on the highway. The process under S143 involves serving notice requiring their removal and if there is no compliance we are able to move them ourselves and recharge. Whilst this is quite straightforward, clearly if the planters are only put out for a short period, it does make it more difficult to enforce.

There are various options available -

???. Enforce one or both issues.

???. Consider a stopping up order to remove the highway status from the area(s) in question, which would have to be pursued and paid for by the church. Obviously, this will depend on various considerations such as whether the encroachments cause a safety issue to the highway user, obstruct visibility and/or whether there are stats apparatus underneath.

???. In the event it is considered not in the public interest to pursue, we can note that there is an obstruction on the highway but that we consider that it is not in the public interest to pursue at this time on the land charges map.

Hope this assists

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Address: Room 202, County Hall, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1RQ



*The Legal Services of Brighton and Hove City Council, East Sussex County Council
and West Sussex County Council working in partnership*

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2024 11:00 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Annual Event at the Church of Scientology Saint Hill Road East Grinstead

Morning [REDACTED],

I was hoping you would be able to assist me with some guidance regarding the below case and in particular, the trees that have been planted on WSCC Highways land.

I have checked Earthlight, along with Google images from over the years and it appears the Church of Scientology have planted these trees on our verge, although I am a little confused why this wasn't addressed last year when it was brought to my Teams attention.

I will speak to my manager next week to confirm if he has any more background information on this and a reason why nothing was done at the time, but in the meantime, I was hoping you would be able to provide me with some guidance from our legal standpoint and a potential cause of action.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Assistant Area Highway Manager – Eastern Area
Economy, Infrastructure & Environment – Highways, Transport and Planning
West Sussex County Council

[REDACTED]

 Did you know you can follow West Sussex Highways on Twitter?
[@WSHighways](https://twitter.com/WSHighways)

We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, September 13, 2024 7:36 AM

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Annual Event at the Church of Scientology Saint Hill Road East Grinstead

Morning [REDACTED],

Can you take this one on please – my view is that we can request the removal of the planters on the public highway (looks like they are on it), but not much we can do to prevent the temporary banners.

I'll let [REDACTED] know I have passed to you to investigate.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

Highway Operations Manager – Eastern
Place Services

We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

[Report a problem with a road or pavement](#) or [raise a highways related enquiry](#)

Follow us at [@WSHighways](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2024 3:00 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Annual Event at the Church of Scientology Saint Hill Road East Grinstead

Hi [REDACTED],

The Church of Scientology resides in my division in East Grinstead and is positioned along Saint Hill Road. I have attached a number of photographs that I have been sent which show the area in and around the entrance late last year where we had a protest outside during the time of their international convention which is fast approaching.

The pictures show various situations – ie the road as is normal and the footway outside the Church of Scientology is clear. And then photos where you can see protesters standing in the road because behind them the Church have placed huge planters on each side of their entrance which is outside of their boundary (judging by the enclosed maps) coupled large vehicles that can be seen parked behind and along what is a pedestrian footway. I can't fathom any reason as to why they would do this given this does not appear to be their land and it does cause an obstruction on the highway not just for anybody protesting but also other pedestrians – particularly those attending the event who are forced to walk in the road to get to it as many are parked in other car parks along that road.

Similarly, there are pictures depicting big banners put on the opposite verge. This was once a footpath (see map attached) area but it appears somebody has planted trees which now prohibits anybody using that space which from the pictures of the map provided appear to indicate that these trees are also planted on public highway. Finally with respect to a huge banner that is attached to these trees for the duration of the event – is this allowed given that this appears to be on public land?

Apparently a complaint was raised last year regarding this matter WSCC 563883905

I attach the resident below's email for information.

I am keen to avoid a repetition of last year's events this year and thus keen to ensure that the public highway/footpath is kept clear so that pedestrians and any future protesters can actually be safe along what is quite a precarious stretch at times.

Can you advise where the public boundary is and if it is as per the attached maps, what can we do to advise the Church of Scientology not to obstruct these areas. I am seriously hoping you are

not going to ask me to report it to Op Crackdown on the day as it is likely they will not come out and take the view this is only a temporary issue.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2024 2:21 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Meeting

****EXTERNAL****

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for your time earlier. Please find a document attached which contains the photographs I shared with you.

With regard to the obstruction of the public right of way last year, I submitted a complaint however by the time the inspection took place, the plants and temporary walling had already been removed. The complaint number was WSCC-563883905

Thank you very much

[REDACTED]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

On 12 Sep 2024, at 12:27, [REDACTED]
wrote:

Thanks speak then

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2024 12:27 PM

To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Meeting

EXTERNAL

H [REDACTED],

Lets go for 1.30 in that case. 30 mins should be plenty.

Here is the Teams link:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 12 Sep 2024, at 10:40, Jacquie Russell
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I am around today between 12 and 2 if that is any good
tomorrow and next week is full on so if we could squeeze it in at some
point today that would be helpful and it would need to be via Teams.

Let me know

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2024 10:19 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Meeting

EXTERNAL

Good morning [REDACTED] ,

Please excuse the delay in getting back to you, I have been away on a work trip.

I have detailed maps of the area, including the property boundaries from Land Registry and photographs from last year which I would be more than happy to share with you.

Would it be possible to arrange either an in-person meeting or a Teams call in the next few days, please?

I am available any time tomorrow or Friday or alternatively next week Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday are pretty flexible, if any of those days work for you?

Thank you

[REDACTED]

On 9 Sep 2024, at 14:39, Jacquie Russell

[REDACTED] wrote:

Dear [REDACTED] ,

Thank you for your email and apologies for the delay in replying I have been away.

I am happy to discuss but as I said previously it would be really helpful if you could provide a map or photo of exactly where protesters would like to stand so that I can ascertain whether or not this is private or public highway?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 10:35 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Meeting

****EXTERNAL****

Dear [REDACTED] ,

As you may be aware, Scientology have notified Mid Sussex District Council of their intent to hold a large gathering at Saint Hill in the coming weeks.

I was wondering if it would be possible to arrange a meeting with you to discuss our plans to protest this year, and whether the Council will be able to step in to prevent some of the issues we encountered last year?

I'm keen to ensure the event (and our protest) causes minimal disruption to the local community.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

CAUTIONThis email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

LEGAL DISCLAIMER

This email and any attachments are confidential and intended solely for the persons addressed. If it has come to you in error please reply to advise us but you should not read it, copy it, show it to anyone else nor make any other use of its content. West Sussex County Council takes steps to ensure emails and attachments are virus-free but you should carry out your own checks before opening any attachment.

CAUTIONThis email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

CAUTIONThis email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Annual Event at the Church of Scientology Saint Hill Road East Grinstead
Date: 18 September 2024 09:55:29
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED].

Please see my notes on the comments below. Hope this helps but do some back if you need anything further.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Address: Room 202, County Hall, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1RQ



*The Legal Services of Brighton and Hove City Council, East Sussex County Council
and West Sussex County Council working in partnership*

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2024 1:19 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Annual Event at the Church of Scientology Saint Hill Road East Grinstead

Hi [REDACTED],

I have spoken to [REDACTED] to confirm if there is any historical information that I was missing regarding this case, but he has confirmed he was not aware of any previous reports/concerns.

In terms of the varying points, I have denoted Adam's feedback below:

Trees

- We suggest this would not be in the public interest to pursue, considering the length of time the trees have been in situ and the fact that they do not obstruct the Highway or visibility at this site (even though they are on Highway land) and therefore, would suggest that this is noted as an obstruction on the highway but that we consider that it is not in the public interest to pursue at this time on the land charges map. **I am happy to do this. Given we have no proof that it was the Church behind the planting and the trees have been there for some time I think this is a reasonable option.**
- Would a retrospective licence be suggested or feasible in this instance? **I do not think so as it would indicate that the planting of trees in a highway was acceptable and we may need to deal with them at some point in the future which would be easier without a**

licence.

- To clarify, there is no official PROW behind/through the trees.

Banner

- Currently there is no banner in situ, as this is only put up for the Church's annual event. In terms of enforcing this, would this be something we could action before this year's event? Potentially contacting the Church to advise that we do not permit banners on the Highway and reinforcing that the area in question is Highway's land? What would your thoughts be re this? **Yes, we absolutely can write to them in advance of the event. I would suggest saying that we noted the banner was erected on the highway last year but would they please note that it is an unlawful obstruction on the highway, so please can they make alternative arrangements this year as otherwise we will be obliged to seek its removal. Probably best to provide a plan showing the extent of the PMH so that they have no excuse. Maybe also ask them to check with the DC as to any advertising regulations they should also bear in mind.**
- Adam wondered if it would be advisable to collaborate with MSDC Planning re the banner and enforcing, if we decide to go that route? **Definitely – I'd send them a copy of the letter you write to the Church so the DC can see what we have asked them.**

Planters

- We wish to enforce the planters as you have addressed. What are the next steps? **Are the planters in situ? As before, we cannot enforce something that isn't there yet, but you could add this to the letter you write to them re the above. If they are there, then we can write now asking them to be removed within 7/10 days or whatever period you think appropriate.**

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Assistant Area Highway Manager – Eastern Area
Economy, Infrastructure & Environment – Highways, Transport and Planning
West Sussex County Council

[REDACTED]

 Did you know you can follow West Sussex Highways on Twitter?
[@WSHighways](https://twitter.com/WSHighways)

We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2024 12:11 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Annual Event at the Church of Scientology Saint Hill Road East Grinstead

Hi [REDACTED],

Further to our telephone call, I confirm the points we discussed earlier.

I have checked Earthlight, along with Google images from over the years and it appears the Church of Scientology have planted these trees on our verge, although I am a little confused why this wasn't addressed last year when it was brought to my Teams attention.

I will speak to my manager next week to confirm if he has any more background information on this and a reason why nothing was done at the time, but in the meantime, I was hoping you would be able to provide me with some guidance from our legal standpoint and a potential cause of action.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Assistant Area Highway Manager – Eastern Area
Economy, Infrastructure & Environment – Highways, Transport and Planning
West Sussex County Council

[REDACTED]

 Did you know you can follow West Sussex Highways on Twitter?
[@WSHighways](https://twitter.com/WSHighways)

We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2024 7:36 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Annual Event at the Church of Scientology Saint Hill Road East Grinstead

Morning [REDACTED],

Can you take this one on please – my view is that we can request the removal of the planters on the public highway (looks like they are on it), but not much we can do to prevent the temporary banners.

I'll let [REDACTED] know I have passed to you to investigate.

Thanks

[REDACTED]
Highway Operations Manager – Eastern
Place Services
Highways, Planning and Transport
West Sussex County Council

[REDACTED]

We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

[Report a problem with a road or pavement](#) or [raise a highways related enquiry](#)

Follow us at [@WSHighways](https://twitter.com/WSHighways)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2024 3:00 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Annual Event at the Church of Scientology Saint Hill Road East Grinstead

Hi [REDACTED],

The Church of Scientology resides in my division in East Grinstead and is positioned along Saint Hill Road. I have attached a number of photographs that I have been sent which show the area in and around the entrance late last year where we had a protest outside during the time of their international convention which is fast approaching.

The pictures show various situations – ie the road as is normal and the footway outside the Church of Scientology is clear. And then photos where you can see protesters standing in the road because behind them the Church have placed huge planters on each side of their entrance which is outside of their boundary (judging by the enclosed maps) coupled large vehicles that can be seen parked behind and along what is a pedestrian footway. I can't fathom any reason as to why they would do this given this does not appear to be their land and it does cause an obstruction on the highway not just for anybody protesting but also other pedestrians – particularly those attending the event who are forced to walk in the road to get to it as many are parked in other car parks along that road.

Similarly, there are pictures depicting big banners put on the opposite side of the road. This was once a footpath (see map attached) area but it appears somebody has planted trees which now prohibits anybody using that space which from the pictures of the map provided appear to indicate that these trees are also planted on public highway. Finally with respect to a huge banner that is attached to these trees for the duration of the event – is this allowed given that this appears to be on public land?

Apparently a complaint was raised last year regarding this matter WSCC 563883905

I attach the resident below's email for information.

I am keen to avoid a repetition of last year's events this year and thus keen to ensure that the public highway/footpath is kept clear so that pedestrians and any future protesters can actually be safe along what is quite a precarious stretch at times.

Can you advise where the public boundary is and if it is as per the attached maps, what can we do to advise the Church of Scientology not to obstruct these areas. I am seriously hoping you are not going to ask me to report it to Op Crackdown on the day as it is likely they will not come out and take the view this is only a temporary issue.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2024 2:21 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Meeting

EXTERNAL

Hi [REDACTED],

Thank you for your time earlier. Please find a document attached which contains the photographs I shared with you.

With regard to the obstruction of the public right of way last year, I submitted a complaint however by the time the inspection took place, the plants and temporary walling had already been removed. The complaint number was WSCC-563883905

Thank you very much

[REDACTED]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

On 12 Sep 2024, at 12:27, [REDACTED] >
wrote:

Thanks speak then

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2024 12:27 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Meeting

EXTERNAL

Hi Jacquie,

Lets go for 1.30 in that case. 30 mins should be plenty.

Here is the Teams link:

[REDACTED]:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

On 12 Sep 2024, at 10:40, Jacquie Russell

[REDACTED]

Morning [REDACTED],

I am around today between 12 and 2 if that is any good? away tomorrow and next week is full on so if we could squeeze it in at some point today that would be helpful and it would need to be via Teams.

Let me know

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2024 10:19 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Meeting

EXTERNAL

Good morning [REDACTED],

Please excuse the delay in getting back to you, I have been away on a work trip.

I have detailed maps of the area, including the property boundaries from Land Registry and photographs from last year which I would be

more than happy to share with you.

Would it be possible to arrange either an in-person meeting or a Teams call in the next few days, please?

I am available any time tomorrow or Friday or alternatively next week Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday are pretty flexible, if any of those days work for you?

Thank you

[REDACTED]

On 9 Sep 2024, at 14:39, Jacquie Russell

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email and apologies for the delay in replying I have been away.

I am happy to discuss but as I said previously it would be really helpful if you could provide a map or photo of exactly where protesters would like to stand so that I can ascertain whether or not this is private or public highway?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 10:35 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Meeting

EXTERNAL

Dear [REDACTED],

As you may be aware, Scientology have notified Mid

Sussex District Council of their intent to hold a large gathering at Saint Hill in the coming weeks.

I was wondering if it would be possible to arrange a meeting with you to discuss our plans to protest this year, and whether the Council will be able to step in to prevent some of the issues we encountered last year?

I'm keen to ensure the event (and our protest) causes minimal disruption to the local community.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

CAUTION This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

LEGAL DISCLAIMER

This email and any attachments are confidential and intended solely for the persons addressed. If it has come to you in error please reply to advise us but you should not read it, copy it, show it to anyone else nor make any other use of its content. West Sussex County Council takes steps to ensure emails and attachments are virus-free but you should carry out your own checks before opening any attachment.

CAUTION This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

CAUTION This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Annual Event at the Church of Scientology Saint Hill Road East Grinstead
Date: 18 September 2024 12:28:03
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED].

Yes, I will do a note for Land Charges regarding the trees.

I do not have any templates but would suggest a letter (perhaps with a photo?) along the lines of the following (please feel free to add or amend as you think fit) –

Dear Sir,

As you may be aware, West Sussex County Council is the Highway Authority for West Sussex and as such, has a duty to assert and protect the rights of the public to the use and enjoyment of the highway under the provisions of the Highways Act 1980.

It has been brought to our attention that a banner and planters were erected on the highway last year advertising your church's annual event. I should point out that, unfortunately, this is classed as an unlawful obstruction of the highway, so I should be very grateful if you would kindly make alternative arrangements this year to avoid depositing or erecting anything on the highway. For your assistance, I attach a plan showing the extent of publicly maintainable highway in the vicinity of the access to the Church in pink. I would also add that it might also be advisable to contact the District Council to ensure that no advertising regulations are broken by the erection of the banner.

Please feel free to contact me to discuss this matter further should you so wish.

Yours etc

I have no contacts for the Church – I would google it and see if that helps – there may be a contact or Manager but if not, you could address it to the Occupier. I would definitely send a letter though – not an email, although if they reply by email, that is fine.

When you get a minute please, would you send me through a plan showing the trees that are planted on the highway – I will need that for the Land Charges note.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Address: Room 202, County Hall, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1RQ



*The Legal Services of Brighton and Hove City Council, East Sussex County Council
and West Sussex County Council working in partnership*

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2024 11:25 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Annual Event at the Church of Scientology Saint Hill Road East Grinstead

Hi [REDACTED],

Thank you, this all makes sense and is very helpful.

In terms of the trees, will you now organise the notes for the land charges map? We will disregard a retrospective licence for the trees.

I will compose a letter to send to the Church with regards to the banner and planters as I do not believe the planters are currently in situ. Do you have any templates or good wording for this that I could please utilise? I will then forward a copy of this letter to the DC.

Lastly, do you have any contacts for the Church and who I should address my correspondence to? And whether it is more prudent to email or post a letter of this nature?

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Assistant Area Highway Manager – Eastern Area
Economy, Infrastructure & Environment – Highways, Transport and Planning
West Sussex County Council



 Did you know you can follow West Sussex Highways on Twitter?
[@WSHighways](https://twitter.com/WSHighways)
We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2024 9:55 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Annual Event at the Church of Scientology Saint Hill Road East Grinstead

Hi [REDACTED].

Please see my notes on the comments below. Hope this helps but do some back if you need anything further.

please note that it is an unlawful obstruction on the highway, so please can they make alternative arrangements this year as otherwise we will be obliged to seek its removal. Probably best to provide a plan showing the extent of the PMH so that they have no excuse. Maybe also ask them to check with the DC as to any advertising regulations they should also bear in mind.

- Adam wondered if it would be advisable to collaborate with MSDC Planning re the banner and enforcing, if we decide to go that route? Definitely – I'd send them a copy of the letter you write to the Church so the DC can see what we have asked them.

Planters

- We wish to enforce the planters as you have addressed. What are the next steps? Are the planters in situ? As before, we cannot enforce something that isn't there yet, but you could add this to the letter you write to them re the above. If they are there, then we can write now asking them to be removed within 7/10 days or whatever period you think appropriate.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Assistant Area Highway Manager – Eastern Area
Economy, Infrastructure & Environment – Highways, Transport and Planning
West Sussex County Council

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
 Did you know you can follow West Sussex Highways on Twitter?
[@WSHighways](https://twitter.com/WSHighways)

We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2024 12:11 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Annual Event at the Church of Scientology Saint Hill Road East Grinstead

Hi [REDACTED],

Further to our telephone call, I confirm the points we discussed earlier.

?? Trees should not be planted within 15 feet of the centre line of the carriageway (s141 HA 80) or within the highway without a licence (S142). In addition, we have the right to abate a nuisance to the highway. I have looked at Google Street View, and see that the trees were actually planted some time ago – they appear in the 2016 view so they have in fact been there for some time.

?? The planters on the highway would be classed as structures and being unauthorised, would also be unlawful on the highway. The process under S143 involves serving notice requiring their removal and if there is no compliance we are able to move them ourselves and recharge. Whilst this is quite straightforward, clearly if the planters are only put out for a short period, it does make it more difficult to enforce.

Hi [REDACTED],

Thank you for your time earlier. Please find a document attached which contains the photographs I shared with you.

With regard to the obstruction of the public right of way last year, I submitted a complaint however by the time the inspection took place, the plants and temporary walling had already been removed. The complaint number was WSCC-563883905

Thank you very much

[REDACTED]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

On 12 Sep 2024, at 12:27, [REDACTED] wrote:

Thanks speak then

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2024 12:27 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Meeting

****EXTERNAL****

Hi [REDACTED],

Lets go for 1.30 in that case. 30 mins should be plenty.

Here is the Teams link:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On 12 Sep 2024, at 10:4 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I am around today between 12 and 2 if that is any good ~~am~~ away tomorrow and next week is full on so if we could squeeze it in at some point today that would be helpful and it would need to be via Teams.

Let me know

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2024 10:19 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Meeting

EXTERNAL

Good morning [REDACTED]

Please excuse the delay in getting back to you, I have been away on a work trip.

I have detailed maps of the area, including the property boundaries from Land Registry and photographs from last year which I would be more than happy to share with you.

Would it be possible to arrange either an in-person meeting or a Teams call in the next few days, please?

I am available any time tomorrow or Friday or alternatively next week Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday are pretty flexible, if any of those days work for you?

Thank you

[REDACTED]

On 9 Sep 2024, at 14:3 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED] ,

Thank you for your email and apologies for the delay in replying I have been away.

I am happy to discuss but as I said previously it would be really helpful if you could provide a map or photo of exactly where protesters would like to stand so that I can ascertain whether or not this is private or public highway?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 10:35 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Meeting

EXTERNAL

Dear [REDACTED]

As you may be aware, Scientology have notified Mid Sussex District Council of their intent to hold a large gathering at Saint Hill in the coming weeks.

I was wondering if it would be possible to arrange a meeting with you to discuss our plans to protest this year, and whether the Council will be able to step in to prevent some of the issues we encountered last year?

I'm keen to ensure the event (and our protest) causes minimal disruption to the local community.

Thank you



CAUTION This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

LEGAL DISCLAIMER

This email and any attachments are confidential and intended solely for the persons addressed. If it has come to you in error please reply to advise us but you should not read it, copy it, show it to anyone else nor make any other use of its content. West Sussex County Council takes steps to ensure emails and attachments are virus-free but you should carry out your own checks before opening any attachment.

CAUTION This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

CAUTION This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Annual Event at the Church of Scientology Saint Hill Road East Grinstead
Date: 13 September 2024 10:54:10
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I can confirm that there is no definitive PROW at the location indicated in the document you have supplied.

Your informant may be confusing the location with Bridleway 28aEG which is on that side of the road but approx 60m further south (map snip below).

Let me know if you need anything more...

Regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Access Ranger Area 6
Rights of Way
Highways Operations
West Sussex County Council
1st Floor Northleigh
Tower Street
Chichester
West Sussex


[REDACTED] Web: www.westsussex.gov.uk

© Crown copyright and database rights 2024 OS AC0000849983. You are permitted to use this data solely to enable you to respond to, or interact with, the organisation that provided you with the data. You are not permitted to copy, sub-license, distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form.

From: Gemma Wallis <Gemma.Wallis@westsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2024 9:43 AM

To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Annual Event at the Church of Scientology Saint Hill Road East Grinstead

[REDACTED]
Assistant Area Highway Manager – Eastern Area
Economy, Infrastructure & Environment – Highways, Transport and Planning
West Sussex County Council

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]
 Did you know you can follow West Sussex Highways on Twitter? [@WSHighways](https://twitter.com/WSHighways)
We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2024 7:36 AM
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Annual Event at the Church of Scientology Saint Hill Road East Grinstead

Morning [REDACTED],

Can you take this one on please – my view is that we can request the removal of the planters on the public highway (looks like they are on it), but not much we can do to prevent the temporary banners.

I'll let Jacque know I have passed to you to investigate.

Thanks

[REDACTED]
Highway Operations Manager – Eastern
Place Services
Highways, Planning and Transport
West Sussex County Council

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]
We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

[Report a problem with a road or pavement](#) or [raise a highways related enquiry](#)
Follow us at [@WSHighways](https://twitter.com/WSHighways)

[REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2024 3:00 PM
[REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Annual Event at the Church of Scientology Saint Hill Road East Grinstead

Hi [REDACTED],

The Church of Scientology resides in my division in East Grinstead and is positioned along Saint Hill Road. I have attached a number of photographs that I have been sent which show the area in and around the entrance late last year where we had a protest outside during the time of their international convention which is fast approaching.

The pictures show various situations – ie the road as is normal and the footway outside the Church of Scientology is clear. And then photos where you can see protesters standing in the road because behind them the Church have placed huge planters on each side of their entrance which is outside of their boundary (judging by the enclosed maps) coupled large vehicles that can be seen parked behind and along what is a pedestrian footway. I can't fathom any reason as to why they would do this given this does not appear to be their land and it does cause an obstruction on the highway not just for anybody protesting but also other pedestrians – particularly those attending the event who are forced to walk in the road to get to it as many are parked in other car parks along that road.

Similarly, there are pictures depicting big banners put on the opposite verge. This was once a footpath (see map attached) area but but it appears somebody has planted trees which now prohibits anybody using that space which from the pictures

****EXTERNAL****

Hi [REDACTED],

Lets go for 1.30 in that case. 30 mins should be plenty.

Here is the Teams link:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On 12 Sep 2024, at 10:40, [REDACTED] wrote:

Morning [REDACTED],

I am around today between 12 and 2 if that is any good? I am away tomorrow and next week is full on so if we could squeeze it in at some point today that would be helpful and it would need to be via Teams.

Let me know

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2024 10:19 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Meeting

****EXTERNAL****

Good morning [REDACTED]

Please excuse the delay in getting back to you, I have been away on a work trip.

I have detailed maps of the area, including the property boundaries from Land Registry and photographs from last year which I would be more than happy to share with you.

Would it be possible to arrange either an in-person meeting or a Teams call in the next few days, please?

I am available any time tomorrow or Friday or alternatively next week Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday are pretty flexible, if any of those days work for you?

Thank you

[REDACTED]

On 9 Sep 2024, at 14: [REDACTED]
wrote:

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email and apologies for the delay in replying I have been away.

I am happy to discuss but as I said previously it would be really helpful if you could provide a map or photo of exactly where protesters would like to stand so that I can ascertain whether or not this is private or public highway?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 10:35 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Meeting

EXTERNAL

Dear [REDACTED],

As you may be aware, Scientology have notified Mid Sussex District Council of their intent to hold a large gathering at Saint Hill in the coming weeks.

I was wondering if it would be possible to arrange a meeting with you to discuss our plans to protest this year, and whether the Council will be able to step in to prevent some of the issues we encountered last year?

I'm keen to ensure the event (and our protest) causes minimal disruption to the local community.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

CAUTION This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

LEGAL DISCLAIMER

This email and any attachments are confidential and intended solely for the persons addressed. If it has come to you in error please reply to advise us but you should not read it, copy it, show it to anyone else nor make any other use of its content. West Sussex County Council takes steps to ensure emails and attachments are virus-free but you should carry out your own checks before opening any attachment.

CAUTION This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

CAUTION This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Church of Scientology Annual Convention
Date: 14 October 2024 09:26:00
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Thanks [REDACTED],

More than happy to discuss further with Inspector [REDACTED].

I think its really clear from the extra footage I was provided over the weekend, that the issue last year was simply the lack of opportunities for both the protesters - in terms of where to stand and pedestrians - with respect to walking safely along Saint Hill Rd, so its reassuring to hear that there will be provision for both this year, particularly with the removal of vehicles very obviously illegally parked on the footways. I don't recall the protesters damaging property or behaving in an anti-social manner last year, nor did I receive any complaints from the public about them – it was more around the traffic congestion, so hopefully there won't be any need to arrest any of them this year either.

With respect to the illegally planted hedging/erected fencing/kerbing etc, I am assuming that we are still going to enforce the removal of this, given it is on Highways land? An update here would be helpful as I was advised by [REDACTED] that this was a complete breach and they would be expected to remove this within the standard notice period.

I will contact Inspector [REDACTED] by separate email to discuss further.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 9:14 AM
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Church of Scientology Annual Convention

Good morning, [REDACTED],

Following the meeting with Inspector [REDACTED] last week, he has confirmed that Sussex Police will be in attendance throughout the Church of Scientology's Annual Convention, to ensure the safety of any protestors, attendees to the Church's event and users of the highway. Given the limited width of the footway at this location and the speed of the road, there will be specific areas that protestors are permitted to stand across the weekend, to ensure their safety.

He has confirmed that all Police officers will be wearing body worn cameras, any vehicles which are obstructing the footway and posing a risk to the public are to be removed and that arrests

will be undertaken, if protestors obstruct the highway and endanger themselves or those around them. The safety of the public is the paramount concern throughout this event and ultimately, any enforcement surrounding this lies with Sussex Police.

Inspector Derrick has confirmed that he is happy to discuss this matter further with you, if you wish and I have included his contact details below for your reference:

[REDACTED]

Our conversations with the Church around the extent of the public highway will continue, and we are in the process of agreeing a date to meet in the very near future.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Highway Operations Manager – Eastern
Place Services
Highways, Planning and Transport
West Sussex County Council

[REDACTED]

We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

[Report a problem with a road or pavement](#) or [raise a highways related enquiry](#)

Follow us at [@WSHighways](#)

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2024 11:04 AM

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Church of Scientology Annual Convention

Hi [REDACTED],

Thank you for coming back to me so quickly and for this update.

Absolutely, would this afternoon be possible or if not, tomorrow?

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Assistant Area Highway Manager – Eastern Area
Economy, Infrastructure & Environment – Highways, Transport and Planning
West Sussex County Council

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Did you know you can follow West Sussex Highways on Twitter?

[@WSHighways](#)

We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2024 10:27 AM

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Church of Scientology Annual Convention

****EXTERNAL****

Good morning [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email and the update. It's useful to know your intentions re the PSPO consultation and the concerns from the local area.

I am not sure we would be able to dedicate a full-time police resource, to stay fulltime outside the church on the Friday but I'm sure we can assist with periodic patrols and discuss how we can work together to address the concerns.

The best point of contact for us are Inspector [REDACTED] (Mid Sussex Neighbourhood Police) and Inspector [REDACTED] (Wsx Ops). It would be worthwhile perhaps arranging a quick video call? I have added contact details in the email address.

Kind regards



[REDACTED]
A/Chief Inspector
District Commander – Crawley & Mid Sussex
West Sussex Division
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2024 9:30 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Church of Scientology Annual Convention

Importance: High

External Email - Please use caution when engaging with emails from outside the organisation. Visit our [Information Security Guidance Hub](#) to find out how to report suspicious emails as phishing.

Good morning [REDACTED],

I hope you are well.

I was wondering if you could please assist me with the following.

We have been advised that the Church of Scientology in East Grinstead have an annual event which is due to go ahead the weekend commencing 25th October until 27th October 2024 and following reported incidents last year of the highway being obstructed and protestors being forced into the road, we are keen to ensure this does not happen again and that the safety of the public is considered.

Last year during the above convention, the Church obstructed the public highway by placing planters directly outside of their entrance and we have been informed that vehicles were parked on the public footway, leading to protestors having to walk into the carriageway to get around these vehicles.

[REDACTED] has informed me that she believes the planters are usually placed outside of the entrance the evening before the event commences, which in this case would be Friday 24 October.

Given the nature of last year's event, we feel a Police presence will be required to ensure the highway is not obstructed and ultimately that the safety of the public is maintained throughout the convention.

For your information, we have also had notification that the Place and Communities committee at Mid Sussex District Council met on Wednesday 2nd October and agreed to pursue a consultation into a public space protection order being put in place outside the church. West Sussex County Council are waiting to be consulted on this.

If you could please come back to me as soon as possible it would be greatly appreciated, as the event is coming around quickly and please do let me know if I should direct my enquiry to another member of the Team, instead of yourself.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Assistant Area Highway Manager – Eastern Area
Economy, Infrastructure & Environment – Highways, Transport and Planning



Did you know you can follow West Sussex Highways on Twitter?
[@WSHighways](#)

We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

LEGAL DISCLAIMER

This email and any attachments are confidential and intended solely for the persons addressed. If it has come to you in error please reply to advise us but you should not read it, copy it, show it to anyone else nor make any other use of its content. West Sussex County Council takes steps to ensure emails and attachments are virus-free but you should carry out your own checks before opening any attachment.

You can report crime and incidents online at

<https://www.sussex.police.uk/report-online>

We want to know your views - see what's new and give us your feedback and suggestions at www.sussex.police.uk

If you have received this message in error, please contact the sender as soon as possible - you may not copy it, or make use of any information contained in it for any purpose, or disclose its contents to any other person. Messages sent and received by Sussex Police are not private and may be the subject of monitoring.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Church of Scientology Annual Convention
Date: 15 October 2024 10:15:02
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED],

It's quite common in these situations for landowners not to understand the difference between highway rights and registered title holders' rights. As you know, where highway rights exist over land, any other rights are irrelevant, as highway rights always take precedent. I'm pretty sure this is what we are looking at here and so hopefully we can clarify at the meeting. They also allege that WSCC consent was granted for the planting of the trees, and we would expect to see some evidence to support this.

Even if we do definitively establish the highway boundary, we are only able to request that the planters are not positioned on the public highway at any point. Whether the church comply with that request is a different matter, and if they were to ignore that request, it is likely that the planters will be removed by the Monday and hence nothing for us to follow up on.

Sussex Police are obviously able to manage the event/site as they see fit, and we are not able to influence that to any extent. I'm not aware that the Church have had any contact with the County Council, as the planned event is not associated with anything relating to the highway, albeit will in all likelihood have an impact. In that case, Sussex Police are the appropriate agency to manage this for the duration and they have confirmed that they will police the event to ensure public safety, which would align with our priority as Highway Authority.

We'll update following the meeting with the church.

Thanks

[REDACTED]
Highway Operations Manager – Eastern
Place Services
Highways, Planning and Transport
West Sussex County Council

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

[Report a problem with a road or pavement](#) or [raise a highways related enquiry](#)

Follow us at [@WSHighways](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 2:30 PM
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] >
Subject: RE: Church of Scientology Annual Convention

Thanks [REDACTED],

Strange they are challenging the boundaries when we have already concluded that they were placing unauthorised structures on our land – are we saying that our maps are wrong now then?

Just for info, I had an email from Inspector [REDACTED] this morning following your email, which I felt was pretty rude in tone towards me and I didn't appreciate it. I was hoping to have a polite discussion with him rather than be challenged upon my personal observations last year as the local councillor let alone remind me of the law and point out the responsibilities of the Highways authority as if I'm not aware of this. He was dismissive in tone so I'm surprised he reached out via yourself in the first place. That conversation won't occur now but I will respond to his points in his email and I am happy to copy you in on this.

Inspector [REDACTED] has practically implied that you should allow those planters to remain because it means he doesn't have to put police by the entrance – but police were there at the entrance by the planters last year and the protesters were nowhere near – but the planters and vans being in situ did make it really unsafe for attendees walking up the road dodging traffic entering the venue let alone people trying to exercise their right to protest.

Has anybody actually had a discussion with the organiser of this event? From Inspector [REDACTED] tone, it sounds as if Sussex Police have had no engagement and it doesn't sound like we have either.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 2:10 PM

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Church of Scientology Annual Convention

Hi [REDACTED],

The Church have challenged some information pertaining to the extent of the public highway at this location and so this is to be discussed at the forthcoming meeting. I'm afraid that this particular element has the potential to become protracted given the legalities, and so not sure we will be in a position to provide a definitive answer to this prior to the event. Where obstructions are transient, and occur only outside of normal office hours, it is extremely difficult for WSCC to action/enforce. I believe that as part of the police operation, some of these locations will have restricted access anyway and so may not be an issue this time around.

Gemma discussed this with Inspector [REDACTED] during the meeting and so he is up to speed with the situation.

Thanks

[REDACTED]
Highway Operations Manager – Eastern
Place Services
Highways, Planning and Transport
West Sussex County Council

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

[Report a problem with a road or pavement](#) or [raise a highways related enquiry](#)

Follow us at [@WSHighways](#)

[REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 9:26 AM

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Church of Scientology Annual Convention

Thanks [REDACTED]

More than happy to discuss further with Inspector [REDACTED].

I think its really clear from the extra footage I was provided over the weekend, that the issue last year was simply the lack of opportunities for both the protesters - in terms of where to stand and pedestrians - with respect to walking safely along Saint Hill Rd, so its reassuring to hear that there will be provision for both this year, particularly with the removal of vehicles very obviously illegally parked on the footways. I don't recall the protesters damaging property or behaving in an anti-social manner last year, nor did I receive any complaints from the public about them – it was more around the traffic congestion, so hopefully there won't be any need to arrest any of them this year either.

With respect to the illegally planted hedging/erected fencing/kerbing etc, I am assuming that we are still going to enforce the removal of this, given it is on Highways land? An update here would be helpful as I was advised by [REDACTED] that this was a complete breach and they would be expected to remove this within the standard notice period.

I will contact Inspector [REDACTED] by separate email to discuss further.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 9:14 AM
To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Church of Scientology Annual Convention

Good morning, [REDACTED],

Following the meeting with Inspector [REDACTED] last week, he has confirmed that Sussex Police will be in attendance throughout the Church of Scientology's Annual Convention, to ensure the safety of any protestors, attendees to the Church's event and users of the highway. Given the limited width of the footway at this location and the speed of the road, there will be specific areas that protestors are permitted to stand across the weekend, to ensure their safety.

He has confirmed that all Police officers will be wearing body worn cameras, any vehicles which are obstructing the footway and posing a risk to the public are to be removed and that arrests will be undertaken, if protestors obstruct the highway and endanger themselves or those around them. The safety of the public is the paramount concern throughout this event and ultimately, any enforcement surrounding this lies with Sussex Police.

Inspector [REDACTED] has confirmed that he is happy to discuss this matter further with you, if you wish and I have included his contact details below for your reference:

Inspector [REDACTED]

Our conversations with the Church around the extent of the public highway will continue, and we are in the process of agreeing a date to meet in the very near future.

Regards

[REDACTED]
Highway Operations Manager – Eastern
Place Services
Highways, Planning and Transport
West Sussex County Council

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

[Report a problem with a road or pavement](#) or [raise a highways related enquiry](#)

Follow us at [@WSHighways](#)

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2024 11:04 AM

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Church of Scientology Annual Convention

Hi [REDACTED],

Thank you for coming back to me so quickly and for this update.

Absolutely, would this afternoon be possible or if not, tomorrow?

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Assistant Area Highway Manager – Eastern Area
Economy, Infrastructure & Environment – Highways, Transport and Planning
West Sussex County Council

[REDACTED]

 Did you know you can follow West Sussex Highways on Twitter?
[@WSHighways](https://twitter.com/WSHighways)

We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2024 10:27 AM
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Church of Scientology Annual Convention

EXTERNAL

Good morning [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email and the update. It's useful to know your intentions re the PSPO consultation and the concerns from the local area.

I am not sure we would be able to dedicate a full-time police resource, to stay fulltime outside the church on the Friday but I'm sure we can assist with periodic patrols and discuss how we can work together to address the concerns.

The best point of contact for us are Inspector [REDACTED] (Mid Sussex Neighbourhood Police) and Inspector [REDACTED] (Wsx Ops). It would be worthwhile perhaps arranging a quick video call? I have added contact details in the email address.

Kind regards



[REDACTED]
A/Chief Inspector
District Commander – Crawley & Mid Sussex
West Sussex Division
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2024 9:30 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: Church of Scientology Annual Convention

Importance: High

External Email - Please use caution when engaging with emails from outside the organisation. Visit our [Information Security Guidance Hub](#) to find out how to report suspicious emails as phishing.

Good morning [REDACTED],

I hope you are well.

I was wondering if you could please assist me with the following.

We have been advised that the Church of Scientology in East Grinstead have an annual event which is due to go ahead the weekend commencing 25th October until 27th October 2024 and following reported incidents last year of the highway being obstructed and protestors being forced into the road, we are keen to ensure this does not happen again and that the safety of the public is considered.

Last year during the above convention, the Church obstructed the public highway by placing planters directly outside of their entrance and we have been informed that vehicles were parked on the public footway, leading to protestors having to walk into the carriageway to get around these vehicles.

[REDACTED] has informed me that she believes the planters are usually placed outside of the entrance the evening before the event commences, which in this case would be Friday 24th October.

Given the nature of last year's event, we feel a Police presence will be required to ensure the highway is not obstructed and ultimately that the safety of the public is maintained throughout the convention.

For your information, we have also had notification that the Place and Communities committee at Mid Sussex District Council met on Wednesday 2nd October and agreed to pursue a consultation into a public space protection order being put in place outside the church. West Sussex County Council are waiting to be consulted on this.

If you could please come back to me as soon as possible it would be greatly appreciated, as the event is coming around quickly and please do let me know if I should direct my enquiry to another member of the Team, instead of yourself.

Kind regards,


Assistant Area Highway Manager – Eastern Area
Economy, Infrastructure & Environment – Highways, Transport and Planning
West Sussex County Council



 Did you know you can follow West Sussex Highways on Twitter?
[@WSHighways](#)

We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

LEGAL DISCLAIMER

This email and any attachments are confidential and intended solely for the persons addressed. If it has come to you in error please reply to advise us but you should not read it, copy it, show it to anyone else nor make any other use of its content. West Sussex County Council takes steps to ensure emails and attachments are virus-free but you should carry out your own checks before opening any attachment.

You can report crime and incidents online at

<https://www.sussex.police.uk/report-online>

We want to know your views - see what's new and give us your feedback and suggestions at www.sussex.police.uk

If you have received this message in error, please contact the sender as soon as possible - you may not copy it, or make use of any information contained in it for any purpose, or disclose its contents to any other person. Messages sent and received by Sussex Police are not private and may be the subject of monitoring.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Church of Scientology Annual Convention
Date: 15 October 2024 10:35:34
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Thanks [REDACTED],

I would be surprised if we gave consent as I did hear that previously the now departed (only from WSCC I hasten to add) Richard Speller had challenged their planting but I don't know how long ago that was but no doubt they will be able to provide proof to back up their statement and if not then presumably we will take enforcement action?

I accept what you are saying re the planters, but I do feel that we should request it in the interests of pedestrian safety particularly as the police do have powers to restrict where protesters can stand. I do not accept Inspector [REDACTED] comment that he would support them being there as it means he doesn't have to put police officers there because they were standing there last year alongside numerous security officers with protesters much further down the road on the edge of the grass verge which I understand from yourselves is public land.

If they ignore the request, then its not going to go down well with respect to their application for a public space protection order given that is all about protecting the public spaces and the people within those spaces.

I have written to Inspector [REDACTED] as you will have seen and I have asked him whether or not the police have engaged with the protesters as I feel this will go a long way towards minimising further disruption outside of the obvious traffic issues that will prevail during the 3 day event. I have also asked him to ensure he will move on the many vans that were most definitely obstructing what your team have identified as public footway as his email seemed to be focussed entirely on where protesters would be arrested. I don't like one rule for one and one for the rest of us. All I want is a level playing field so that the Church can have a successful event, pedestrians are safe and the protesters can exercise their right to protest peacefully.

Many thanks and I look forward to hearing your update.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 10:15 AM
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

<[REDACTED]>

Subject: RE: Church of Scientology Annual Convention

Hi [REDACTED],

It's quite common in these situations for landowners not to understand the difference between highway rights and registered title holders' rights. As you know, where highway rights exist over land, any other rights are irrelevant, as highway rights always take precedent. I'm pretty sure this is what we are looking at here and so hopefully we can clarify at the meeting. They also allege that WSCC consent was granted for the planting of the trees, and we would expect to see some evidence to support this.

Even if we do definitively establish the highway boundary, we are only able to request that the planters are not positioned on the public highway at any point. Whether the church comply with that request is a different matter, and if they were to ignore that request, it is likely that the planters will be removed by the Monday and hence nothing for us to follow up on.

Sussex Police are obviously able to manage the event/site as they see fit, and we are not able to influence that to any extent. I'm not aware that the Church have had any contact with the County Council, as the planned event is not associated with anything relating to the highway, albeit will in all likelihood have an impact. In that case, Sussex Police are the appropriate agency to manage this for the duration and they have confirmed that they will police the event to ensure public safety, which would align with our priority as Highway Authority.

We'll update following the meeting with the church.

Thanks

[REDACTED]
Highway Operations Manager – Eastern
Place Services
Highways, Planning and Transport
West Sussex County Council

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

[Report a problem with a road or pavement](#) or [raise a highways related enquiry](#)

Follow us at [@WSHighways](#)

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 2:30 PM

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Church of Scientology Annual Convention

Thanks [REDACTED]

Strange they are challenging the boundaries when we have already concluded that they w placing unauthorised structures on our land – are we saying that our maps are wrong now then?

Just for info, I had an email from Inspe [REDACTED] this morning following your email, which I felt was pretty rude in tone towards me and I didn't appreciate it. I was hoping to have a polite discussion with him rather than be challenged upon my personal observations last year as the local councillor let alone remind me of the law and point out the responsibilities of the Highways authority as if I'm not aware of this. He was dismissive in tone so I'm surprised he reached out via yourself in the first place. That conversation won't occur now but I will respond to his points in his email and I am happy to copy you in on this.

Inspector [REDACTED] has practically implied that you should allow those planters to remain because it means he doesn't have to put police by the entrance – but police were there at the entrance by the planters last year and the protesters were nowhere near – but the planters and vans being in situ did make it really unsafe for attendees walking up the road dodging traffic entering the venue let alone people trying to exercise their right to protest.

Has anybody actually had a discussion with the organiser of this event? Inspector [REDACTED] tone, it sounds as if Sussex Police have had no engagement and it doesn't sound like we have either.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] >

Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 2:10 PM

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Church of Scientology Annual Convention

Hi [REDACTED],

The Church have challenged some information pertaining to the extent of the public highway at this location and so this is to be discussed at the forthcoming meeting. I'm afraid that this particular element has the potential to become protracted given the legalities, and so not sure we will be in a position to provide a definitive answer to this prior to the event. Where obstructions are transient, and occur only outside of normal office hours, it is extremely difficult for WSCC to action/enforce. I believe that as part of the police operation, some of these locations will have restricted access anyway and so may not be an issue this time around.

[REDACTED] discussed this with Inspe [REDACTED] during the meeting and so he is up to speed with the situation.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

Highway Operations Manager – Eastern

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

[Report a problem with a road or pavement](#) or [raise a highways related enquiry](#)

Follow us at [@WSHighways](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 9:26 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Church of Scientology Annual Convention

Thanks [REDACTED],

More than happy to discuss further with Inspector [REDACTED]

I think its really clear from the extra footage I was provided over the weekend, that the issue last year was simply the lack of opportunities for both the protesters - in terms of where to stand and pedestrians - with respect to walking safely along Saint Hill Rd, so its reassuring to hear that there will be provision for both this year, particularly with the removal of vehicles very obviously illegally parked on the footways. I don't recall the protesters damaging property or behaving in an anti-social manner last year, nor did I receive any complaints from the public about them – it was more around the traffic congestion, so hopefully there won't be any need to arrest any of them this year either.

With respect to the illegally planted hedging/erected fencing/kerbing etc, I am assuming that we are still going to enforce the removal of this, given it is on Highways land? An update here would be helpful as I was advised by [REDACTED] that this was a complete breach and they would be expected to remove this within the standard notice period.

I will contact Inspector [REDACTED] by separate email to discuss further.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 9:14 AM
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Church of Scientology Annual Convention

Good morning, [REDACTED],

Following the meeting with Inspector [REDACTED] last week, he has confirmed that Sussex Police will be in attendance throughout the Church of Scientology's Annual Convention, to ensure the safety of any protestors, attendees to the Church's event and users of the highway. Given the limited width of the footway at this location and the speed of the road, there will be specific areas that protestors are permitted to stand across the weekend, to ensure their safety.

He has confirmed that all Police officers will be wearing body worn cameras, any vehicles which are obstructing the footway and posing a risk to the public are to be removed and that arrests will be undertaken, if protestors obstruct the highway and endanger themselves or those around them. The safety of the public is the paramount concern throughout this event and ultimately, any enforcement surrounding this lies with Sussex Police.

Inspector [REDACTED] has confirmed that he is happy to discuss this matter further with you, if you wish and I have included his contact details below for your reference:

[REDACTED]

Our conversations with the Church around the extent of the public highway will continue, and we are in the process of agreeing a date to meet in the very near future.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Highway Operations Manager – Eastern
Place Services
Highways, Planning and Transport
West Sussex County Council

[REDACTED]

We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

[Report a problem with a road or pavement](#) or [raise a highways related enquiry](#)

Follow us at [@WSHighways](#)

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2024 11:04 AM

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Russell [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Church of Scientology Annual Convention

Hi [REDACTED],

Thank you for coming back to me so quickly and for this update.

Absolutely, would this afternoon be possible or if not, tomorrow?

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Assistant Area Highway Manager – Eastern Area
Economy, Infrastructure & Environment – Highways, Transport and Planning
West Sussex County Council

[REDACTED]

 Did you know you can follow West Sussex Highways on Twitter?
[@WSHighways](#)

We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2024 10:27 AM
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Church of Scientology Annual Convention

****EXTERNAL****

Good morning [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email and the update. It's useful to know your intentions re the PSPO consultation and the concerns from the local area.

I am not sure we would be able to dedicate a full-time police resource, to stay fulltime outside the church on the Friday but I'm sure we can assist with periodic patrols and discuss how we can work together to address the concerns.

The best point of contact for us are Inspector [REDACTED] (Mid Sussex Neighbourhood Police) and Inspector [REDACTED] (Wsx Ops). It would be worthwhile perhaps arranging a quick video call? I have added contact details in the email address.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
A/Chief Inspector



District Commander – Crawley & Mid Sussex
West Sussex Division

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted] >

Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2024 9:30 AM

To: [Redacted]

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Subject: Church of Scientology Annual Convention

Importance: High

External Email - Please use caution when engaging with emails from outside the organisation. Visit our [Information Security Guidance Hub](#) to find out how to report suspicious emails as phishing.

Good morning [Redacted],

I hope you are well.

I was wondering if you could please assist me with the following.

We have been advised that the Church of Scientology in East Grinstead have an annual event which is due to go ahead the weekend commencing 25th October until 27th October 2024 and following reported incidents last year of the highway being obstructed and protestors being forced into the road, we are keen to ensure this does not happen again and that the safety of the public is considered.

Last year during the above convention, the Church obstructed the public highway by placing planters directly outside of their entrance and we have been informed that vehicles were parked on the public footway, leading to protestors having to walk into the carriageway to get around these vehicles.

[Redacted] has informed me that she believes the planters are usually placed outside of the entrance the evening before the event commences, which in this case would be Friday 24th October.

Given the nature of last year's event, we feel a Police presence will be required to ensure the highway is not obstructed and ultimately that the safety of the public is maintained throughout the convention.

For your information, we have also had notification that the Place and Communities committee at Mid Sussex District Council met on Wednesday 2nd October and agreed to pursue a consultation into a public space protection order being put in place outside the church. West Sussex County Council are waiting to be consulted on this.

If you could please come back to me as soon as possible it would be greatly appreciated, as the event is coming around quickly and please do let me know if I should direct my enquiry to another member of the Team, instead of yourself.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Assistant Area Highway Manager – Eastern Area
Economy, Infrastructure & Environment – Highways, Transport and Planning
West Sussex County Council

[REDACTED]

 Did you know you can follow West Sussex Highways on Twitter?
[@WSHighways](#)

We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

LEGAL DISCLAIMER

This email and any attachments are confidential and intended solely for the persons addressed. If it has come to you in error please reply to advise us but you should not read it, copy it, show it to anyone else nor make any other use of its content. West Sussex County Council takes steps to ensure emails and attachments are virus-free but you should carry out your own checks before opening any attachment.

You can report crime and incidents online at

<https://www.sussex.police.uk/report-online>

We want to know your views - see what's new and give us your feedback and suggestions at www.sussex.police.uk

If you have received this message in error, please contact the sender as soon as possible - you may not copy it, or make use of any information contained in it for any purpose, or disclose its contents to any other person. Messages sent and received by Sussex Police are not private and may be the subject of monitoring.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

From: [Benjamin Whiffin](#)
To: [Jacquie Russell](#)
Cc: [Adam Denby](#); [Gemma Wallis](#)
Subject: RE: Church of Scientology Annual Convention
Date: 21 October 2024 08:36:45
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)

[REDACTED],

Just a note to confirm that [REDACTED] met with the Church last week and reiterated the points already made regarding the extent of the highway boundary. We are still not in a position whereby both parties are aligned, but in the absence of any evidence to the contrary, we have been very clear regarding our position that the highway boundary is as per our mapping system data. In light of that, we have made it absolutely clear that any structures placed within the confines of the highway are not authorised by WSCC, and that any accident associated with them will not be covered by any Public Liability Insurance they might have in place.

We have requested evidence to support the assertion that the trees were licensed and will keep you posted.

Thanks

[REDACTED]
Highway Operations Manager – Eastern
Place Services
Highways, Planning and Transport
West Sussex County Council

[REDACTED]

We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

[Report a problem with a road or pavement](#) or [raise a highways related enquiry](#)

Follow us at [@WSHighways](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 10:36 AM
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Church of Scientology Annual Convention

Thanks [REDACTED],

I would be surprised if we gave consent as I did hear that previously the now departed (only from WSCC I hasten to add) [REDACTED] had challenged their planting but I don't know how long ago that was but no doubt they will be able to provide proof to back up their statement and if not then presumably we will take enforcement action?

I accept what you are saying re the planters, but I do feel that we

should request it in the interests of pedestrian safety particularly as the police do have powers to restrict where protesters can stand. I do not accept Inspector [REDACTED] comment that he would support them being there as it means he doesn't have to put police officers there because they were standing there last year alongside numerous security officers with protesters much further down the road on the edge of the grass verge which I understand from yourselves is public land.

If they ignore the request, then its not going to go down well with respect to their application for a public space protection order given that is all about protecting the public spaces and the people within those spaces.

I have written to Inspector [REDACTED] as you will have seen and I have asked him whether or not the police have engaged with the protesters as I feel this will go a long way towards minimising further disruption outside of the obvious traffic issues that will prevail during the 3 day event. I have also asked him to ensure he will move on the many vans that were most definitely obstructing what your team have identified as public footway as his email seemed to be focussed entirely on where protesters would be arrested. I don't like one rule for one and one for the rest of us. All I want is a level playing field so that the Church can have a successful event, pedestrians are safe and the protesters can exercise their right to protest peacefully.

Many thanks and I look forward to hearing your update.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 10:15 AM
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Church of Scientology Annual Convention

H [REDACTED],

It's quite common in these situations for landowners not to understand the difference between highway rights and registered title holders' rights. As you know, where highway rights exist over land, any other rights are irrelevant, as highway rights always take precedent. I'm pretty sure this is what we are looking at here and so hopefully we can clarify at the meeting. They also allege that WSCC consent was granted for the planting of the trees, and we would expect to some evidence to support this.

Even if we do definitively establish the highway boundary, we are only able to request that the planters are not positioned on the public highway at any point. Whether the church comply with that request is a different matter, and if they were to ignore that request, it is likely that the

planters will be removed by the Monday and hence nothing for us to follow up on.

Sussex Police are obviously able to manage the event/site as they see fit, and we are not able to influence that to any extent. I'm not aware that the Church have had any contact with the County Council, as the planned event is not associated with anything relating to the highway, albeit will in all likelihood have an impact. In that case, Sussex Police are the appropriate agency to manage this for the duration and they have confirmed that they will police the event to ensure public safety, which would align with our priority as Highway Authority.

We'll update following the meeting with the church.

Thanks

[REDACTED]
Highway Operations Manager – Eastern
Place Services
Highways, Planning and Transport
West Sussex County Council

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

[Report a problem with a road or pavement](#) or [raise a highways related enquiry](#)

Follow us at [@WSHighways](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 2:30 PM
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Church of Scientology Annual Convention

Thanks [REDACTED],

Strange they are challenging the boundaries when we have already concluded that they were placing unauthorised structures on our land – are we saying that our maps are wrong now then?

Just for info, I had an email from Inspector [REDACTED] this morning following your email, which I felt was pretty rude in tone towards me and I didn't appreciate it. I was hoping to have a polite discussion with him rather than be challenged upon my personal observations last year as the local councillor let alone remind me of the law and point out the responsibilities of the Highways authority as if I'm not aware of this. He was dismissive in tone so I'm surprised he reached out via yourself in the first place. That conversation won't occur now but I will respond to his points in his email and I am happy to copy you in on this.

Inspector [REDACTED] has practically implied that you should allow those planters to remain because it means he doesn't have to put police by the entrance – but police were there at the entrance by the planters last year and the protesters were nowhere near – but the planters and vans being in situ did make it really unsafe for attendees walking up the road dodging traffic entering

the venue let alone people trying to exercise their right to protest.

Has anybody actually had a discussion with the organiser of this event? From Inspector Derrick's tone, it sounds as if Sussex Police have had no engagement and it doesn't sound like we have either.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 2:10 PM

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Church of Scientology Annual Convention

Hi [REDACTED],

The Church have challenged some information pertaining to the extent of the public highway at this location and so this is to be discussed at the forthcoming meeting. I'm afraid that this particular element has the potential to become protracted given the legalities, and so not sure we will be in a position to provide a definitive answer to this prior to the event. Where obstructions are transient, and occur only outside of normal office hours, it is extremely difficult for WSCC to action/enforce. I believe that as part of the police operation, some of these locations will have restricted access anyway and so may not be an issue this time around.

[REDACTED] discussed this with Inspector [REDACTED] during the meeting and so he is up to speed with the situation.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

Highway Operations Manager – Eastern

Place Services

Highways, Planning and Transport

West Sussex County Council

[REDACTED]

We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

[Report a problem with a road or pavement](#) or [raise a highways related enquiry](#)

Follow us at [@WSHighways](#)

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 9:26 AM

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Church of Scientology Annual Convention

Thanks [REDACTED]

More than happy to discuss further with Inspector [REDACTED].

I think its really clear from the extra footage I was provided over the weekend, that the issue last year was simply the lack of opportunities for both the protesters - in terms of where to stand and pedestrians - with respect to walking safely along Saint Hill Rd, so its reassuring to hear that there will be provision for both this year, particularly with the removal of vehicles very obviously illegally parked on the footways. I don't recall the protesters damaging property or behaving in an anti-social manner last year, nor did I receive any complaints from the public about them – it was more around the traffic congestion, so hopefully there won't be any need to arrest any of them this year either.

With respect to the illegally planted hedging/erected fencing/kerbing etc, I am assuming that we are still going to enforce the removal of this, given it is on Highways land? An update here would be helpful as I was advised by [REDACTED] that this was a complete breach and they would be expected to remove this within the standard notice period.

I will contact Inspector [REDACTED] by separate email to discuss further.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 9:14 AM

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Church of Scientology Annual Convention

Good morning, [REDACTED]

Following the meeting with Inspector [REDACTED] last week, he has confirmed that Sussex Police will be in attendance throughout the Church of Scientology's Annual Convention, to ensure the safety of any protestors, attendees to the Church's event and users of the highway. Given the limited width of the footway at this location and the speed of the road, there will be specific areas that protestors are permitted to stand across the weekend, to ensure their safety.

He has confirmed that all Police officers will be wearing body worn cameras, any vehicles which are obstructing the footway and posing a risk to the public are to be removed and that arrests will be undertaken, if protestors obstruct the highway and endanger themselves or those around them. The safety of the public is the paramount concern throughout this event and ultimately, any enforcement surrounding this lies with Sussex Police.

Inspector [REDACTED] has confirmed that he is happy to discuss this matter further with you, if you wish and I have included his contact details below for your reference:

[REDACTED]

Our conversations with the Church around the extent of the public highway will continue, and we are in the process of agreeing a date to meet in the very near future.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Highway Operations Manager – Eastern
Place Services
Highways, Planning and Transport
West Sussex County Council

[REDACTED]

We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

[Report a problem with a road or pavement](#) or [raise a highways related enquiry](#)

Follow us at [@WSHighways](https://twitter.com/WSHighways)

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2024 11:04 AM

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Church of Scientology Annual Convention

H [REDACTED],

Thank you for coming back to me so quickly and for this update.

Absolutely, would this afternoon be possible or if not, tomorrow?

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Assistant Area Highway Manager – Eastern Area
Economy, Infrastructure & Environment – Highways, Transport and Planning
West Sussex County Council

[REDACTED]

 Did you know you can follow West Sussex Highways on Twitter?
[@WSHighways](https://twitter.com/WSHighways)

We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

From: Turner, Steve CT651 <Steven.Turner@sussex.police.uk>
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2024 10:27 AM
To: Gemma Wallis <Gemma.Wallis@westsussex.gov.uk>; Derrick, David CD295 <David.Derrick@sussex.police.uk>; Butler, Michael CB238 <Michael.Butler@sussex.police.uk>
Cc: Adam Denby <Adam.Denby@westsussex.gov.uk>; Benjamin Whiffin <benjamin.whiffin@westsussex.gov.uk>; Gail Rowley <gail.rowley@westsussex.gov.uk>; Jacquie Russell <Jacquie.Russell@westsussex.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Church of Scientology Annual Convention

****EXTERNAL****

Good morning [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email and the update. It's useful to know your intentions re the PSPO consultation and the concerns from the local area.

I am not sure we would be able to dedicate a full-time police resource, to stay fulltime outside the church on the Friday but I'm sure we can assist with periodic patrols and discuss how we can work together to address the concerns.

The best point of contact for us are Inspector [REDACTED] (Mid Sussex Neighbourhood Police) and Inspector [REDACTED] (Wsx Ops). It would be worthwhile perhaps arranging a quick video call? I have added contact details in the email address.

Kind regards



[REDACTED]
A/Chief Inspector
District Commander – Crawley & Mid Sussex
West Sussex Division
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2024 9:30 AM

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: Church of Scientology Annual Convention

Importance: High

External Email - Please use caution when engaging with emails from outside the organisation. Visit our **Information Security Guidance Hub** to find out how to report suspicious emails as phishing.

Good morning [REDACTED]

I hope you are well.

I was wondering if you could please assist me with the following.

We have been advised that the Church of Scientology in East Grinstead have an annual event which is due to go ahead the weekend commencing 25th October until 27th October 2024 and following reported incidents last year of the highway being obstructed and protestors being forced into the road, we are keen to ensure this does not happen again and that the safety of the public is considered.

Last year during the above convention, the Church obstructed the public highway by placing planters directly outside of their entrance and we have been informed that vehicles were parked on the public footway, leading to protestors having to walk into the carriageway to get around these vehicles.

[REDACTED] has informed me that she believes the planters are usually placed outside of the entrance the evening before the event commences, which in this case would be Friday 24th October.

Given the nature of last year's event, we feel a Police presence will be required to ensure the highway is not obstructed and ultimately that the safety of the public is maintained throughout the convention.

For your information, we have also had notification that the Place and Communities committee at Mid Sussex District Council met on Wednesday 2nd October and agreed to pursue a consultation into a public space protection order being put in place outside the church. West Sussex County Council are waiting to be consulted on this.

If you could please come back to me as soon as possible it would be greatly appreciated, as the event is coming around quickly and please do let me know if I should direct my enquiry to another member of the Team, instead of yourself.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Assistant Area Highway Manager – Eastern Area
Economy, Infrastructure & Environment – Highways, Transport and Planning
West Sussex County Council

[REDACTED]

 Did you know you can follow West Sussex Highways on Twitter?
[@WSHighways](#)

We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

LEGAL DISCLAIMER

This email and any attachments are confidential and intended solely for the persons addressed. If it has come to you in error please reply to advise us but you should not read it, copy it, show it to anyone else nor make any other use of its content. West Sussex County Council takes steps to ensure emails and attachments are virus-free but you should carry out your own checks before opening any attachment.

You can report crime and incidents online at

<https://www.sussex.police.uk/report-online>

We want to know your views - see what's new and give us your feedback and suggestions at www.sussex.police.uk

If you have received this message in error, please contact the sender as soon as possible - you may not copy it, or make use of any information contained in it for any purpose, or disclose its contents to any other person. Messages sent and received by Sussex Police are not private and may be the subject of monitoring.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Church of Scientology Annual Convention
Date: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

For clarification, I attach a **1:1250** scale G.I.S. extract from an Ordnance Survey Map, on which I have shown shaded in pink the extent of the publicly maintainable highway in the immediate vicinity of the above named property according to the West Sussex County Council's current records. I have also marked the average highway boundary measurements on the plan recorded on the Field Sheet when this area was surveyed for maintenance purposes on 15-09-1980. (The measurements are taken to the centre-line of the hedge/trees.) This reply is specific to the above mentioned property and cannot be relied upon for use on any other property.

I attach a historic plan for this area showing that the extent of the highway has not changed. I also attach previous correspondence that I have located for this site.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2024 12:22 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Church of Scientology Annual Convention

Hi [REDACTED],

As per our conversation, can you please confirm the highway boundary at the below location and provide me with copies of any historical information pertaining to this location/case.

Saint Hill Road, East Grinstead, RH19 4JY

I have attached maps above taken from Earthlight, with the Land Charges one showing the location of the trees that have been cited (the black dash line), we believe, within the highway boundary. We need to confirm the highway boundary here and for the surrounding area please, so we can ensure the footway is under the highway boundary and where this ends.

I have also attached previous information from the initial complaint/enquiry surrounding the upcoming Annual Convention.

Please let me know if you require any additional information.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Assistant Area Highway Manager – Eastern Area
Economy, Infrastructure & Environment – Highways, Transport and Planning
West Sussex County Council

[REDACTED]

 Did you know you can follow West Sussex Highways on Twitter?
[@WSHighways](#)

We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Church of Scientology, Saint Hill Road, East Grinstead - Letter for posting
Date: 25 September 2024 07:29:05
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Good Morning [REDACTED],

Apologies that the letter didn't go out yesterday afternoon, but I finish at 4pm so your email missed me. However, I have changed the date of the letter to today and it will be printed and posted out First Class today.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 24, 2024 4:07 PM
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Afternoon [REDACTED],

Could you please action the posting of the letter attached.

Please let me know if you require anything else for this.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Assistant Area Highway Manager – Eastern Area
Economy, Infrastructure & Environment – Highways, Transport and Planning
West Sussex County Council

[REDACTED]

 Did you know you can follow West Sussex Highways on Twitter?
[@WSHighways](https://twitter.com/WSHighways)

We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

From: [Faith Talbott](#)
To: [Gemma Wallis](#)
Subject: RE: Church of Scientology, Saint Hill Road, East Grinstead - Letter for posting
Date: 18 September 2024 15:08:09
Attachments: [Boundary Map.pdf](#)
[Letter Re Unlawful Obstruction on Highway to the Occupier of Church and Scientology, Saint Hill Road.pdf](#)
[image001.jpg](#)

Good Afternoon [REDACTED],

Just a brief message to confirm that your request has been actioned – letter and boundary map have been printed in colour and posted out to Church and Scientology, Saint Hill Road. I have attached copy of the final versions.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2024 2:59 PM
To: [REDACTED] >
Subject: Church of Scientology, Saint Hill Road, East Grinstead - Letter for posting

Afternoon [REDACTED],

Adam has mentioned you would be able to action the posting of the letter attached. Could you please also ensure the attached map/plan is included when this is sent.

Please let me know if you require anything else for this.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Assistant Area Highway Manager – Eastern Area
Economy, Infrastructure & Environment – Highways, Transport and Planning
West Sussex County Council

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]

 Did you know you can follow West Sussex Highways on Twitter?
[@WSHighways](#)

We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

From:

Subject:

Date:

Re: FW: Meeting to discuss Church of Scientology/Highway boundary
16 October 2024 21:37:18

****EXTERNAL****

Dear [REDACTED],

I wanted to thank you again for the meeting. Following from this I was attempting to submit the application for a license to put up a barrier on the verge for the three days. Per the Terms & Conditions for getting a license for hoarding & scaffolding it says 5 days prior - however on the online form it is requiring 15 days. We're not putting up scaffolding or anything major, but a barrier to mark the path so we keep people off the carriageway.

Can you direct me if there is another online form or form that I can fill out for this - or do I need to go to WSCC to apply in person?

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]

----- Original Message -----

From: [REDACTED]

Subject FW: Meeting to discuss Church of Scientology/Highway boundary

Sent from my Galaxy

From: [REDACTED]

Date: [REDACTED]

Subject: Meeting to discuss Church of Scientology/Highway boundary

[Redacted content]

LEGAL DISCLAIMER

This email and any attachments are confidential and intended solely for the persons addressed. If it has come to you in error please reply to advise us but you should not read it, copy it, show it to anyone else nor make any other use of its content. West Sussex County Council takes steps to ensure emails and attachments are virus-free but you should carry out your own checks before opening any attachment.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Hedgerow removal outside the Church of Scientology
Date: 16 January 2025 07:39:18

Thanks [REDACTED],

To be honest, I didn't realise they weren't normal kerbs and so yes, we will also look to remove those at the same time (if the Arbs are happy to do it).

Things have become a bit more complicated recently due to a complaint and FOI request and so I need to decide about proceeding or not whilst those are being considered. Please still go ahead and raise the job for the works and let me have the job number.

Thanks for your assistance.

Regards

[REDACTED]
Highway Operations Manager – Eastern
Place Services
Highways, Planning and Transport
West Sussex County Council

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

[Report a problem with a road or pavement](#) or [raise a highways related enquiry](#)

Follow us at [@WSHighways](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2025 6:11 PM
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Hedgerow removal outside the Church of Scientology

Hi [REDACTED]

Apologies for the delay in responding to you on this. I can certainly raise a job to have the trees in question removed from the public highway, including their stumps/root balls. Are separate arrangements being made to have the wooden sleepers removed also? As they may need to be moved to allow the contractors to remove the stumps. Or I may be able to get them removed as part of the same job, but would just need to check with them that this is something they can do.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Arboriculturist

Economy, Infrastructure and Environment
Highways and Transport
West Sussex County Council

[REDACTED]

Please note that I work Tuesday-Friday only

[Report a problem with a road or pavement](#) or [raise a highways related enquiry](#)

[REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Hedgerow removal outside the Church of Scientology

Hi [REDACTED],

I believe you undertook a site inspection here and established that the trees/hedge wouldn't put up much of a fight if we were to consider having them removed. All things considered, we have made the decision to have the unauthorised planting removed from the public highway and therefore I would appreciate it please if you could raise a job to do the necessary.

If you could let me have the job number, please, I'll see if I can secure some other gang resource to undertake the work.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

Highway Operations Manager – Eastern
Place Services
Highways, Planning and Transport
West Sussex County Council

[REDACTED]

We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

[Report a problem with a road or pavement](#) or [raise a highways related enquiry](#)

Follow us at [@WSHighways](#)

[REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2025 4:54 PM


[REDACTED]

Subject: Hedgerow removal outside the Church of Scientology

Hi [REDACTED]

Do you have any idea as to when the above works will take place?

Kind regards



CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Hedgerow removal outside the Church of Scientology
Date: 23 January 2025 16:57:59

Hi [REDACTED],

I've raised job 50062555 for you, to include the removal of the trees, the stumps/root-balls and the sleepers, and set it to RJOB pending a decision.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Arboriculturist
Economy, Infrastructure and Environment
Highways and Transport
West Sussex County Council

[REDACTED]

Please note that I work Tuesday-Friday only

[Report a problem with a road or pavement](#) or [raise a highways related enquiry](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2025 7:39 AM
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] >
Subject: RE: Hedgerow removal outside the Church of Scientology

Thanks [REDACTED],

To be honest, I didn't realise they weren't normal kerbs and so yes, we will also look to remove those at the same time (if the Arbs are happy to do it).

Things have become a bit more complicated recently due to a complaint and FOI request and so I need to decide about proceeding or not whilst those are being considered. Please still go ahead and raise the job for the works and let me have the job number.

Thanks for your assistance.

Regards

[REDACTED]
Highway Operations Manager – Eastern
Place Services
Highways, Planning and Transport
West Sussex County Council

[REDACTED]

We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

[Report a problem with a road or pavement](#) or [raise a highways related enquiry](#)

Follow us at [@WSHighways](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2025 6:11 PM
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Hedgerow removal outside the Church of Scientology

Hi [REDACTED],

Apologies for the delay in responding to you on this. I can certainly raise a job to have the trees in question removed from the public highway, including their stumps/root balls. Are separate arrangements being made to have the wooden sleepers removed also? As they may need to be moved to allow the contractors to remove the stumps. Or I may be able to get them removed as part of the same job, but would just need to check with them that this is something they can do.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Arboriculturist
Economy, Infrastructure and Environment
Highways and Transport
West Sussex County Council

[REDACTED]

Please note that I work Tuesday-Friday only

[Report a problem with a road or pavement](#) or [raise a highways related enquiry](#)

Sent: Friday, January 10, 2025 7:20 AM

Subject: FW: Hedgerow removal outside the Church of Scientology

Hi [REDACTED],

I believe you undertook a site inspection here and established that the trees/hedge wouldn't put up much of a fight if we were to consider having them removed. All things considered, we have made the decision to have the unauthorised planting removed from the public highway and therefore I would appreciate it please if you could raise a job to do the necessary.

If you could let me have the job number, please, I'll see if I can secure some other gang resource to undertake the work.

Thanks

[REDACTED]
Highway Operations Manager – Eastern
Place Services
Highways, Planning and Transport
West Sussex County Council

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

[Report a problem with a road or pavement](#) or [raise a highways related enquiry](#)

Follow us at [@WSHighways](#)

[REDACTED] [uk>](#)

Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2025 4:54 PM

[REDACTED]
Subject: Hedgerow removal outside the Church of Scientology

Hi [REDACTED]

Do you have any idea as to when the above works will take place?

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Hedgerow removal outside the Church of Scientology
Date: 27 January 2025 09:25:56
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Morning,

We are on hold subject to outcome of complaint. Stage 1 has been issued and she could request a Stage 2 and then referral to the LGO.

I think it's reasonable to await the outcome of those before proceeding with the works, and Jacquie is aware.

Thanks

[REDACTED]
Highway Operations Manager – Eastern
Place Services
Highways, Planning and Transport
West Sussex County Council

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
We've launched our new website www.westsussex.gov.uk

[Report a problem with a road or pavement](#) or [raise a highways related enquiry](#)

Follow us at [@WSHighways](#)

[REDACTED]
Sent: 24 January 2025 10:35


[REDACTED] >
Subject: FW: Hedgerow removal outside the Church of Scientology

Hi [REDACTED],

I just wanted to confirm if [REDACTED] has been informed that the trees are being removed?

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Assistant Area Highway Manager – Eastern Area
Economy, Infrastructure & Environment – Highways, Transport and Planning
West Sussex County Council

Highway Boundary
 WSCC



© Crown copyright and database rights 2024 OS AC0000849983. You are permitted to use this data solely to enable you to respond to, or interact with, the organisation that provided you with the data. You are not permitted to copy, sub-license, distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form.

Church of Scientology, Saint Hill Road, East Grinstead, RH19 4JY - WSCC Highway Boundary