

**From:** Andy Ekinsmyth andy.ekinsmyth@westsussex.gov.uk

**Subject:** Saint Hill Hoarding Licence

**Date:** 31 October 2025 at 11:19

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Charlotte Weller Charlotte.Weller@westsussex.gov.uk, Matt Davey Matt.Davey@westsussex.gov.uk, Lee Parker Lee.Parker@westsussex.gov.uk, Lucy Corrie lucy.corrie@midsussex.gov.uk, Melissa Myhill melissa.myhill@westsussex.gov.uk, Andy Tuck Andy.Tuck@westsussex.gov.uk, Jacquie Russell Jacquie.Russell@westsussex.gov.uk, Ryan.Oakley@sussex.police.uk, David.Derrick@sussex.police.uk

AE

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email raising concerns about the hoarding licence that has been granted on Saint Hill Road, East Grinstead. I have looked into this matter and can report as follows.

West Sussex County Council, as Highways Authority, has granted a licence to erect hoarding to the north and south of the entrance to ensure pedestrian safety. My understanding is the heras fencing will provide a barrier between pedestrians and motorists at key points along the road. The decision to allow an increase in the fencing has been taken in consultation with, and on the advice of, Sussex Police. The purpose of the fencing is not to prevent pedestrians from using the footway but it will prevent people from stepping on and off the verge into the carriageway

In addition to the fencing, WSCC will be placing a temporary 40mph speed limit along this stretch of Saint Hill road to further reduce risks to pedestrians who may choose to walk in the carriageway at this location.

A site inspection is being carried out to ensure the fencing on site has been erected in accordance with the licence. We will also follow up the reports regarding planters that have been placed on both private land and the public highway. Note those planters on the public highway are placed without permission and we will request their removal.

Your comments regarding the use of alternative entrances to the site are duly noted and is something that WSCC will follow up with the organisers in advance of any event they might hold next year.

I acknowledge that the hoarding licence does not reflect the conversations we understand you have been having with Sussex Police. However Sussex Police confirmed to us that this is their preferred site layout to allow them to manage the event. As such, I can confirm WSCC will not be revoking or amending the licence today.

I fully appreciate this is not the response you would wish for. Should you wish to challenge this decision further you can do so via our complaints process and I have attached a link for your ease of reference.

[Make a complaint or appeal - West Sussex County Council](#)

Regards

Andy Ekinsmyth

**Andy Ekinsmyth**  
Head of Transport and Network Management  
Highways and Transport  
West Sussex County Council

I use the pronouns: he, his

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 30 October 2025 15:21  
**To:** Lucy Corrie <[Lucy.Corrie@midsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Lucy.Corrie@midsussex.gov.uk)>; Andy Tuck <[Andy.Tuck@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Andy.Tuck@westsussex.gov.uk)>; Lee Parker <[Lee.Parker@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Lee.Parker@westsussex.gov.uk)>; Melissa Myhill <[melissa.myhill@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:melissa.myhill@westsussex.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** [Ryan.Oakley@sussex.police.uk](mailto:Ryan.Oakley@sussex.police.uk); Jacquie Russell <[jacquie.russell@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:jacquie.russell@westsussex.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Saint Hill Hoarding Licence

**\*\*EXTERNAL\*\***

Dear West Sussex Highways and Mid Sussex District Council,

As you may be aware, I am the organiser of tomorrow's protest, due to take place outside the Church of Scientology's headquarters on Saint Hill Road. We are a small group of people and are currently expecting less than twenty protestors to show up, and we exercise our right to protest with kindness and compassion at the forefront of our activism.

Last week, I met with Sussex Police and have been working closely with the appropriate authorities in order to organise a safe, peaceful and legal protest that is due to take place on public land.

I have just been informed by the Police that Scientology's hoarding licence, which was initially only for the southern side of the entrance to their property, has now been extended to include the northern side of the entrance, and areas opposite Rockwood Park. This directly contravenes the advice and information that I have been provided by all relevant authorities, and only puts pedestrians, passersby, dogwalkers and of course us protestors at greater risk due to the effective restrictions it places on the public right of way in the area.

This extension has been granted without consultation of nearby residents, or the protestors who will be gathering in the area, and it is discriminatory in its nature. This is due to the fact it serves only to protect Scientologists and their interests, and in fact places a greater safety risk for anybody else who wishes to use the highway or public footpath.

It also places an unnecessary, unjustified and potentially illegal restriction on our rights to free assembly, as protected by Article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

I am gobsmacked that the Highways Authority have decided, at such last minute, to extend the hoarding licence and create an environment that is unsafe for all road users - less than 24 hours before the event (and subsequent protest) is set to take place.

The erection of this hoarding also contravenes the advice of Mid-Sussex District Council, who recommended as part of the outcome of the PSPO earlier this year that lesser measures are necessary in order to minimise disruption to the local area, not greater measures. In fact, the solution to Scientology's problem of pedestrians walking on the highway in order to access their property was for the organisation to use one of

the many other entrances along Saint Hill Road.

Safety is our number one priority, and this decision simply makes it unsafe for members of the public to use this section of the road.

We have no objection to Scientology erecting hoarding on the southern side of their entrance, even though this goes against the advice of MSDC's PSPO report, as voted on by Cabinet... but to extend the hoarding to the northern side of the entrance, especially when considering the additional Planting Licence that has been granted for the opposite side of the road, leaves no space available for passersby to avoid oncoming traffic.

Scientology will almost undoubtedly place security guards and agents to restrict access to the sectioned off parts of the verge, to allow only their event attendees to use the pathway.. and this is simply unacceptable.

I would like to know why this extension has been granted at such last minute, contravening the advice we have received from Sussex Police, Mid-Sussex District Council and the Highways Authority, and in order to ensure the protection of road users, passersby, dog walkers and protestors, respectfully request that it is revoked prior to tomorrow's event.

Yours sincerely,

A rectangular area with a black background and a white grid pattern, used to redact a signature.

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