I am writing to request consent for the full removal of a tree protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) located at:
6 Ravens Lodge Terrace
Dewsbury
WF133EF

I have recently received a formal letter from the Highways Authority following an inspection of the property concerning vegetation overhanging the public highway. The letter refers to Section 154 of the Highways Act 1980 and requires action to remove the danger, obstruction or interference being caused.

The tree concerned is positioned immediately adjacent to the road and footpath. I am requesting full removal primarily on highway and public safety grounds, particularly as the issues associated with this tree have been ongoing for some time and previous intervention has not provided a lasting solution.
The tree is causing a number of recurring concerns:

The branches obstruct the visibility of the street/road sign, potentially affecting the ability of motorists to see important highway information clearly.

The tree interferes with the streetlight, reducing the effectiveness of lighting to the highway and footpath, particularly during darkness and poor weather.
Branches and vegetation extend towards and over the public highway and footpath, resulting in the obstruction which has now led to the Section 154 notification.

Leaves, twigs and other debris from the tree regularly accumulate around and within the highway drains/gullies outside the property, contributing to blockages and preventing surface water from draining effectively.

On multiple previous occasions, I have had to raise requests for the highway drains to be unblocked. I have also had to personally clear accumulated leaves and debris from the drains, with assistance from neighbouring residents, in an effort to prevent further blockage and standing water.

During periods of significant rainfall, restricted drainage has the potential to cause standing or surface water on the highway, creating an additional concern for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists.

I have also previously reported the obstruction of the streetlight and road sign to the Highways team. Approximately a year ago, officers/contractors attended and cut back some of the tree's branches to address these issues. However, the tree has subsequently regrown and the same problems have returned.

This previous intervention is particularly relevant to my request for full removal. The fact that the tree was cut back approximately a year ago and is already causing sufficient obstruction for a further Highways notification to be issued demonstrates that periodic pruning is not providing an effective long-term solution.
The tree's position immediately alongside the highway means that continued growth and seasonal leaf fall are likely to result in recurring issues affecting the road, footpath, street sign, streetlight and highway drainage.

I am concerned that simply cutting the branches back again would address only the immediate problem, while leaving the underlying issue unresolved and requiring repeated intervention by myself, neighbouring residents and the relevant highway services.
For this reason, I respectfully request that the Council considers full removal as a proportionate and effective long-term solution to a documented and recurring highway issue, rather than requiring another cycle of pruning followed by regrowth and further obstruction.

This application is not being made for aesthetic or convenience reasons. It follows previous reports to the Highways team, previous works undertaken to cut the tree back, repeated drainage issues and the latest formal notification requiring me to take action.

I would welcome an inspection by a Tree Officer so that the relationship between the tree and the highway, footpath, road sign, streetlight and highway drainage can be considered together.

I will provide a copy of the latest Section 154 notification in support of my application. Records of my previous reports regarding the drainage and highway obstruction should also demonstrate the recurring nature of the problem.

Taking into account the previous Highways intervention, the recurrence of the obstruction, the drainage problems and the current Section 154 notification, I respectfully ask the Council to give full consideration to the removal of the tree on highway safety and long-term management grounds.