



**Andrew Rosindell M.P.**

**Member of Parliament for Romford**

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**Andrew Haines O.B.E.**

Chief Executive  
Network Rail  
Waterloo General Offices  
LONDON  
SE1 8SW

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Mr Haines

## **Tree Felling – Romford-Emerson Park**

As Member of Parliament for Romford, I am writing to express my grave concern over reported tree felling along Network Rail's line near Emerson Park.

I have received reports of tree cutting from multiple residents living along the Liberty Line tracks between Romford and Emerson Park. While Network Rail have stated that only diseased trees are being cut down, residents are concerned that they have not been consulted about the works and contractors on the ground have told them that their instructions are to 'level the entire area'. A small number of residents received a letter from Network Rail notifying them of the works but this letter promised that works would be limited to tree pruning, as opposed to cutting down trees.

I am deeply frustrated by Network Rail's apparent breach of their agreement in 2021 to not cut down healthy trees unless necessary for safety reasons or to prevent the spread of disease and, then, only after consulting local residents. The decision to disregard these promises just three years later has further undermined trust with the communities living alongside the railway line.

The removal of trees along the line is environmentally disastrous, as this centuries-old line of vegetation currently provides a 'green corridor'; home to various species of birds, animals and plants, including protected species, such as badgers. In addition, the line of trees acts as a sound barrier between the railway line and houses, and its removal would lead to increased noise pollution for those living near to the line. I understand that Network Rail have previously justified removing healthy trees along railway lines based on 'vegetation management' policies. However, adopting such a heavy-handed approach is directly contrary to the Department for Transport's Biodiversity policy.

I request urgent clarification over the nature and purpose of the works currently being carried out on Network Rail land around Emerson Park, and would be grateful for confirmation that no healthy trees will be cut down unless they pose a danger.

Yours sincerely,