

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 August 2026 17:24
To: [REDACTED]

Subject: 3/2025/0997 – Planning Committee 27 August – Active Barn Owl Nest at Tree T20

 External Email

This email originated from outside Ribble Valley Borough Council. Do **NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are sure the content within this email is safe.

Dear Committee Services,

I am writing regarding Planning Application 3/2025/0997 – Land off Henthorn Road, Clitheroe, which

is due to be considered by the Planning & Development Committee on 27 August.

Unfortunately, I am unable to attend the meeting in person.

I would therefore be very grateful if you could circulate this email and my representation below to all members of the Planning & Development Committee before they consider this application, and confirm that it has been received.

My representation concerns the active barn owl nest on Tree T20, the dependent young currently in the nest and the ecological safeguards proposed within the Committee Report.

I [REDACTED] have been personally observing the barn owls using this site.

There is a barn owl nest box attached to Tree T20. This is not simply a box that may potentially be used in the future. It is currently occupied and there are chicks in the nest, which I can clearly hear calling.

I have also personally observed the adult barn owl repeatedly hunting over the proposed development field and returning towards the nest with food for the young.

I previously brought this to the attention of the Planning Officer and I am pleased to see that the Committee Report now acknowledges that residents have confirmed that the owl box is occupied.

I also welcome the proposed protection of Trees T19 and T20 and the attached owl box.

However, there is one particular matter that I respectfully ask Committee members to consider before determining the application.

The Committee Report states that, where the barn owl box is occupied, it should remain in place and be monitored with an exclusion zone of around 100 metres while works are being undertaken.

I would therefore ask the Committee to ensure that this protection is made explicit and enforceable as part of any permission granted.

In particular, I respectfully ask that:

- An appropriate exclusion zone around the occupied barn owl nest is determined and overseen by a suitably qualified ecologist.
- No construction, vegetation clearance, tree works or other potentially disturbing activities are permitted within that protected area while the nest is occupied.
- Trees T19 and T20 and the attached owl box remain protected, in accordance with the proposed ecological/tree protection measures.
- The breeding and foraging requirements of the barn owls are properly considered within the ecological mitigation before development commences.

My concern is not limited to the physical tree containing the nest box.

These barn owls are actively breeding at this location and the adults are currently using the proposed development field as hunting ground to obtain food for their young. I have personally watched this behaviour.

Protecting the nest box itself is extremely important, but I respectfully ask the Committee also to consider the effect of construction activity around an active breeding site and the habitat being used by the adults to feed their chicks.

These barn owls are not hypothetical future users of the site. They are present now, they are breeding now, there are dependent young in the nest now, and the adults are currently hunting over the development field to feed them.

I am not asking the Committee to prevent development solely on this basis. I am simply asking that, if members are minded to approve the application, the safeguards identified within the Council's own Committee Report are properly secured so that this development does not come at the expense of this breeding pair.

I would be grateful if you could confirm that this representation will be made available to all members of the Planning & Development Committee before application 3/2025/0997 is considered on 27 August.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

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

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 21 August 2026 12:14

To: Committee Services [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: 3/2025/0997 – Planning Committee 27 August – Active Barn Owl Nest at Tree T20

⚠ External Email

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For the attention of Committee Services members.

At the moment we are unable to attend the meeting in person.

[REDACTED] we would endorse all the points raised in [REDACTED] email. We have experienced the issues she describes and believe appropriate measures should be implemented to protect the natural habitats of the local wildlife.

Furthermore, we would like to draw attention to the responses made by third parties in the main application which strongly support the rejection of the development. There are environmental ecological and road safety issues that

have been considered individually and dismissed. Viewed collectively they have a greater impact and we would request the application be considered in this context.

Thank you for your attention in this matter



On 20 Aug 2026, at 17:24, [REDACTED]

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