Riverbank Surgery: chronology of consultation and contact

Every material date and event, with the Westcott Village Forum's three recorded contact attempts shown in context.

Important context: The Forum had Dr Guilder's contact details throughout the whole period shown below.

Consultation open · Examination / gap / after closure · Recorded contact attempt · No direct contact / consultation closed

REGULATION 14

13 Oct - 24 Nov 2025

11 Oct — A general "Dear Neighbour" letter is sent to 27 landowners and businesses. It names no policy and no property. Dr Guilder is not on the list.

21 Nov — Matplan asks the Forum, for Dorking Medical Practice and Rushmon Homes, to move Riverbank Surgery from Policy 6 into Policy 7. This begins the process.

24 Nov — Regulation 14 closes.

Nov-Dec — The Forum agrees to the request. Riverbank Surgery is removed from Policy 6 and added to Policy 7. Dr Guilder is not told.

NO CONTACT WITH DR GUILDER

REGULATION 16

8 Dec 2025 - 2 Feb 2026

8 Dec — Regulation 16 opens. Copies of the Plan are placed at six locations, including Riverbank Surgery itself.

Dec-Jan — Matplan makes a further representation supporting Policy 7 on behalf of the practice and Rushmon Homes.

2 Feb — Regulation 16 closes.

NO CONTACT WITH DR GUILDER

EXAMINATION + FC-1

9 Feb - 14 May 2026

9 Feb — The Examiner decides the examination will proceed on written representations and finds the proposed changes are material.

16 Feb — The Examiner puts 15 questions to the Forum and Council. None concerns Policy 6, Policy 7 or Riverbank Surgery.

1 Apr — The Examiner's focused consultation opens.

15 Apr — Dr Guilder's adviser files a representation and sends a copy to the Forum. This is the first contact between the two sides, initiated by Dr Guilder's side.

1 — 22 Apr 2026

Reply to the owner's adviser

The meeting proposed was with the adviser and expressly excluded the Guilder family. The adviser did not refuse; the Forum did not follow up.

During the Examiner's focused consultation - but initiated by Dr Guilder's side

22-23 Apr — The adviser says the family is taking advice and will revert. The Forum does not follow up.

5 May — The Forum writes to the Examiner opposing deletion of the surgery from Policy 7.

12 May — A letter filed for Dr Guilder arrives after the fact-check stage and is not accepted by the Examiner.

14 May — The Examiner reports and recommends that Riverbank Surgery be deleted from Policy 7.

THE GAP

15 May - 8 Jun 2026

15 May — Dorking Medical Practice writes to the Council supporting safeguarding. The Council later treats this as new evidence.

16-18 May — The practice writes to three ward councillors seeking support. One councillor says he is already in touch with the Guilder family.

26 May — The Council tells the Forum it is waiting for the family's planning agents. A Forum representative says a private meeting had been 'flatly refused'; no such approach was received.

2 — 28 May - 1 Jun 2026

Informal contact via Neil's neighbour

A Village Association committee member who is Neil Guilder's neighbour informally contacts him about revised Policy 7 wording. Neil says the family will discuss it and come back. No further approach is pursued.

Outside any consultation window

2 Jun — The Council publishes its Decision Statement, declines PM6 and decides to run a further focused consultation.

NO DIRECT CONTACT WITH DR GUILDER

COUNCIL FC-2

9 Jun - 21 Jul 2026

9 Jun — The Council's focused consultation opens. The question is whether the Plan should safeguard Riverbank Surgery for its existing use under Policy 7.

24 Jun — **The Forum holds a public meeting at Holy Trinity. Dorking Medical Practice presents the case for safeguarding; 67 people attend and a show-of-hands vote is taken. Dr Guilder is not invited, notified or given a right of reply.**

21 Jul, 5pm — Dr Guilder's representation is filed on the closing day through his planning consultants.

21 Jul, 5pm — The Council's focused consultation closes.

NO CONTACT BEFORE OR DURING FC-2

AFTER CLOSURE

29 Jul - 3 Aug 2026

3 — 29 Jul 2026

First direct contact with Dr Guilder

The Forum Chairman texts Dr Guilder's personal mobile. It reaches him immediately. This is the first direct Forum communication to him.

Eight days after the final consultation closed

29 Jul — The family replies the same afternoon and asks that Dr Guilder's letter be published on the Forum's website.

30 Jul — The Forum declines to publish it.

31 Jul — The Forum submits a statement to the Examiner setting out its three attempts to contact Dr Guilder.

3 Aug — The Council tells the family the Examiner has granted the Forum a right to respond to the representations.

FIRST DIRECT CONTACT - AFTER CLOSURE

Overall timing

From the request of 21 November 2025 to the direct text of 29 July 2026, no one approached Dr Guilder at a time when it could have affected a live consultation. The first direct contact came eight days after the final consultation closed.