



Our Ref: JH/TPO236
Contact: Jonathan Hazell
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Date: 11 April 2018

Dear

TPO 236 QUINTON ROAD, WOOTTON

Thank you for your letter dated 31 March with your formal objection to the inclusion of the Leyland cypress tree in your rear garden within the recently served, but not yet confirmed, TPO 236 Quinton Road, Wootton.

I would have preferred that we had had the opportunity to discuss your concerns before application N/2018/0192 had to be determined, i.e. by 20 March, however we do of course respect your decision to object after the Order had been served.

We are sympathetic to your concern that the mass of the tree and its position on the boundary makes the tree a risk to neighbours, especially as you feel that there are no roots on one side of the tree. But, to counter your concerns, particularly about rooting, the route of and alignment of the road through the village has not changed during the tree's lifetime and the tree will have grown and adapted its growth to be wind firm.

You are concerned for the consequences if the tree should fall, but you have not produced any evidence or argument to suggest that the tree might fail, and on the precautionary principle we have elected to seek to preserve the amenity that the tree provides. In my experience there are very few catastrophic failures of Leyland cypress, albeit some limbs do break out of the crown, as you have recently experienced.

We have served the Order because we believe it to be "expedient in the interests of amenity to make provision for the preservation of trees or woodlands" in the area. We have also exercised our judgment when considering the meaning of amenity deciding that it is reasonable to make the Order and, using the current guidelines, have considered visibility, individual, collective and wider impact, and other factors.

Should the order be confirmed it will not prevent appropriate management of the tree, it will simply allow the Council as Local Planning Authority to be comfortable that the pruning proposed is reasonable and proportionate. If you, or others, would like to prune the tree then simply apply, see our webpages for details, <http://www.northampton.gov.uk/trees>.

We believe that we have followed the spirit of the guidance and served the Order to "protect selected trees and woodlands if their removal would have a significant negative impact on the local environment and its enjoyment by the public." We also believe that we are able to demonstrate that the serving of the Order will demonstrate that protection would bring a reasonable degree of public benefit in the present or future.

Would you now be prepared to withdraw your objection to the inclusion of the Leyland cypress tree in the Order? If your objection were to stand then a report will need to be prepared for consideration by elected members at the General Purposes Committee meeting on 15 May, the purpose of the report would be to seek their consent for the confirmation of the order which we believe to be "expedient in the interests of public amenity".

I trust that the above comments are of assistance. Please note, however, that they represent the views of an officer only and cannot prejudice any decision of the Council as local planning authority.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "J Hazell". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jonathan Hazell
Project Officer: Arboriculture
Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning

Working pattern: 008:00 – 16:00, Tuesday to Thursday