

[Redacted text]

1 September 2024

Havant Borough Council  
PO9 2AX

**For the attention of the Tree Officer**  
**Planning Application APP/24/00631 – TO FELL 4 Scots Pine trees at**  
**58 Silvester Road, Cowplain PO8 8TS**

You have invited us to comment on the above planning application submitted by Mr and Mrs Redman. We are pleased to do so in support of this [redacted text]. We also attach a copy of our earlier submission dated 6 July 2022 in respect of the previous planning application, in case the document has been filed away, as the content therein is still relevant and still represents our concerns.

In addition, we would make several further submissions. We note that your letter to us dated 20 August 2024 lists the detail of Relevant Considerations, which includes Design, Appearance and Outlook: and also effect on Daylight, Privacy and Outlook. Case Officer Mr Peter Slegg, in his report recommending refusal of Application app/23/00176, made little or no reference to these factors, but only to assessing the proposed works. His statement that he only visually inspected the trees from ground level indicates that such inspection could only have been made from the corner of Silvester Road and Glenwood Gardens, this being the only point at which these four trees are visible ‘...from surrounding public areas...’ (his words). As this point is some 80 to 100 yards from the actual tree location, and the intervening buildings in Silvester Road and Glenwood Gardens only permit sight of the upper branches, we do not believe that the trees ‘...make an important contribution to the landscape character...(or) ...having an important amenity value...’ The trees are almost totally hidden from view by the houses in Silvester Road, Glenwood Gardens and Orchard Grove, and other neighbours to whom we have spoken likewise regard them as having ‘...no positive contribution to local amenity...’

We respectfully request that the report’s findings in this instance be carefully reassessed.

Mr Slegg’s report also states that no issues were raised concerning safety or impact on surrounding structures, which we believe to be erroneous. [Redacted text] the four trees, whose overhang comes within a few feet of the building. The prevailing weather patterns would include storms from the west and south-west, which could possibly bring the trees down directly onto both floors of the house. We have lived here [redacted text], during which time the trees have grown to a size far too large for the original amenity.

We are also concerned about the statement in paragraph 7.8 of Mr Slegg’s report, which seems to be a catch-all with no supporting explanation of its relevance, yet it appears as Recommendation 1 in Section 9, the one and only reason for the refusal. Given the detailed submissions made by Mr and Mrs Redman, we see this as a matter for concern. We are given to understand that a new appointment has been made, given that it is four years since the previous Chief Arborist left the Council’s employ, and we would respectfully ask that these submissions be given full consideration.

[Redacted text]

[Redacted text]

6 July 2022

Dear Sir

**For the attention of Mr T Gregory, Case Officer**

**Planning application APP/22/00515 – to fell 4 Scots Pine Trees at 58 Silvester Road**

We support this application wholeheartedly, being the owners of the property most affected by the four trees in question. They have been a significant problem for a number of years, and are now in such a condition as to threaten the safety of our property.

We were once given to understand that the TPO was granted more than 50 years ago by one person, and the changing conditions have never been taken into account. We have given support to this application by providing photographic evidence of the huge and serious overhang of the trees into our rear garden, and they now reach above the actual building itself. The roots of these trees have undermined our garden to a significant extent, and this is demonstrated by the way in which they force up paving slabs laid behind the conservatory. The height and density of the shrubbery has caused us significant stress and worry from ever increasing winter storms and extreme high winds, as the prevailing wind direction from the south-west would cause them to fall directly on our house. This could have serious consequences both on ourselves, but also on the council itself if the TPO order is not rescinded. We also suffer hugely from cones, pine needles, broken branches and other detritus which they deposit on our small back garden. We do not regard them as having a pleasing appearance, and they certainly have a negative effect on the daylight reaching our property.

In 2011 the owners of 58 Silvester Road submitted a planning application to Havant Borough Council, which was refused, in what appeared to be a summary manner of dismissal. Within that application the owners offered to replant trees along their rear border of whatever species deemed appropriate by the Chief Arborist, which would take up water so as to have little impact on the water table. We never received any indication from HBC that our letter supporting the application had been considered, and no-one ever came to view the trees from our property, which we found very disappointing but which suggested there would be little point in pursuing the matter.

On 7 September 2019 I attended a councillors' surgery and met with Councillor Ann Briggs who gave me advice on how to proceed. She was very helpful, and I confirmed our discussions and my subsequent contact with the trees' owners, Mr and Mrs Redman. Cllr Briggs opined that an application to put in a TPO nowadays in such a situation was no longer possible, and she was very surprised that the Redmans' first application had been refused. She referred me to the Chief Arborist, Mr Skeets, and subsequently told us that if we had difficulty in arranging a viewing by Mr Skeets she would arrange for herself and another councillor to visit.

On 8 September 2019 I wrote to Mr and Mrs Redman, expressing our concerns. In reply Mrs Redman summarised their previous application, commenting that they fully shared our concerns, and had long believed that the trees should be removed for matters of safety to their property and to those of their neighbours. However, no-one from the Council contacted them to view the trees or any of the properties affected, and the application was summarily rejected citing a form of words along the

lines of 'detracting from the street scene'. We all find this unreasonable, as none of the trees are visible from Silvester Road, Glenwood Gardens nor Orchard Grove, being surrounded by a U-shaped rear aspect of nine dwelling houses.

No further discussions were possible as we were advised that Mr Andrew Skeets had now left his Position as Chief Arborist, but a meeting was subsequently arranged for me to seek advice from Mr Kevin Peters, Arborial Technical Officer, which took place on 28 November 2019. Mr Peters was unfailingly polite and understanding: he explained the situation regarding trees under TPO orders, and stressed that any application to fell or reduce would need to be accompanied with appropriate back-up evidence, but confirmed that there might be a situation where the trees could be deemed to have outgrown their location.

The situation in the Planning office after Mr Skeets' departure had not resolved sufficiently until well into the New Year, but Mr and Mrs Redman were about to enter a new application in March 2020 when the Covid-19 pandemic rendered any activity impossible. It is only now that the Planning Development Department have been able to receive and process new planning applications, and I thank you for your letter dated 29 June 2022 inviting representation in support of the proposal.

I have copies of all the documents to which I have referred, and will be happy to make them available to the Planning Inspectorate. Likewise, we would welcome visits requiring access to our property in order to view the situation regarding the trees. Photography will also be available.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted text]