

Recommendation: **GRANT TPO CONSENT**

Councillor J Branson - St Faiths

Councillor T Pike - St Faith's

6 Community Involvement

This application was publicised in accordance with the Council's Code of Practice for Publicity of Planning Applications approved at minute 207/6/92 (as amended), as a result of which the following publicity was undertaken:

Number of neighbour notification letters sent: 7

Number of site notices: 1

Statutory advertisement: Not applicable.

Number of representations received: 3

Comment	Officer Comment
After meeting with the neighbours and discussing the excessive height of the tree, I fully support this application. In the adjoining gardens in Blenheim Gardens, the tree blocks a considerable amount of late afternoon / early evening light.	
Thank you for the letter of 7th October regarding the proposed tree works. We are the owners of (redacted) and the tree is just east of our garden. We would agree that some pruning of the tree would be beneficial and support these proposed works. One point that was discussed with the applicant, and is not clear from the application, is that the lower branches of the tree on our side (about 4 in number) prevent us and our neighbour from replacing the panels of the dilapidated fence which is between us (it has concrete posts and the 6' panels need to be lifted above the posts to slot them in), these branches are also in danger of causing damage to the roof of old apple store building in our garden and are making it difficult to maintain the building. You would be welcome to visit our property if you wish to view the problems.	Noted

I am writing to support the application made on behalf of Mr P Chilcott by M.Reed and Co. Ltd. regarding proposed work to be done on the above. As you might recall from a previous application made by myself (APP/18/01022) the tree in question overhangs our garden considerably. This has an extremely detrimental effect on matters such as sunlight and growth of other plants in our garden. The height of the tree is also a major concern to us as well as our immediate neighbours in Blenheim Gardens. Recent high winds have amplified these concerns and the fact that these storms are predicted to be an increasing occurrence due to climate change raises worries about potential personal and structural damage. Returning to the application made by us in 2018 to have a crown lift, I can confirm that my wife and I decided not to pursue this; (redacted) but more relevantly because such work would not alleviate the concerns listed above. However, following our ongoing concerns together with those of our neighbours, we contacted Mr Chilcott of 114 Southleigh Road to discuss the matter. Mr Chilcott kindly visited our property where he was able to see for himself the extent of the problem. We subsequently agreed to seek professional advice from a respected tree surgeon. My wife and I therefore fully support the proposed work as it would benefit the health of the tree in addition to solving the problems previously highlighted above. We would be pleased to allow you access to our rear garden if you wish to make a site visit. Thank you for your kind attention.	Noted
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7 Planning Considerations

7.1 Having regard to the relevant policies of the development plan it is considered that the main issues arising from this application are:

- Whether the degree of pruning works requested would undermine the amenity value of these trees and whether this could also be harmful to their ongoing health and vitality.

7.2 My inspection related specifically to assessing the proposed works rather than generally inspecting the tree's health and condition in any great detail. I visually inspected the tree from ground level and the following report deals with the relevant issues that have been raised on site, in the application form and from my site observations.

7.3 This application relates to the proposed work to a tree subject to a Tree Preservation Order. This application is unusual to a degree in that it is for reduction work to bring a sycamore down to approximately half its height, from 9m to 5m. There are extenuating circumstances relating to the tree owner which would make a refusal of permission difficult to defend. The application has been made by a reputable Tree Surgeon who puts in numerous Tree Work Applications and his applications are known for specifying work that is reasonable and proportionate to the stated need for pruning work.

8 Conclusion

Therefore Permission should be granted.

9 **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Head of Neighbourhood Support be authorised to **GRANT TPO CONSENT** for application APP/20/00876 subject to the following conditions

- 1 The tree works for which consent is hereby granted shall not be carried out otherwise than in full accordance with all relevant content of BS 3998 (2010).

Reason: In the interests of tree health and safety.

- 2 The tree works for which consent is hereby granted shall be carried out and completed no later than 16/11/21.

Reason: To control the timing of the works.