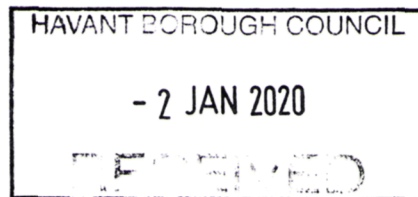


Planning Development
Havant Borough Council
Public Service Plaza
Civic Centre Road
Havant
Hampshire
PO9 2AX



Miss Claire Merritt
58 Blenheim Gardens
Havant
Hampshire
PO9 2PN

24th December 2019

Re: Proposal for reducing height/removing poplar trees at 7 Windrush Close, Havant PO9 2EW

Objection:

These elegant, tall trees have graced our community for decades and quite rightly were given a protection order. We were concerned when the new houses were built close to them, but were promised and reassured that everything was taken into consideration so that there would be no risk to either trees or houses. In these times of increasing climate change it is essential to preserve and extend tree cover and these magnificent Lombardy poplar trees play a vital role in that. They also protect against various forms of pollution including light, noise, airborne chemicals and radiation. They are a wonderful habitat for wildlife and generations of squirrels and birds have made their home in them, the latter offering delightful song to counteract the extra traffic noise. The gentle rustling, whooshing sound of the poplars in the wind likewise helps protect against the noise of new developments and delivers a soothing counterbalance. The poplars provide excellent screening between the houses of Blenheim Gardens and Windrush Close, especially in the summer with their thick green foliage so no houses, cars or lights can be seen. Their formidable height stretching into the sky is something to celebrate: a beacon seen from afar; a unique landmark to be proud of. They have always been safe decade after decade, bending gracefully in the wind. I propose that there is no reason to reduce their height in any way and that all trees should remain. If for any reason a weaker tree does not survive, a new one should be planted in its place so that all can continue to reap the benefits. Without these beautiful trees at their natural full height and splendour, our community would be much impoverished. Let's protect, preserve and treasure them as they are.

Claire Merritt
