

Application for tree works. 7 The Gorseway, St Helens Road, Hayling Island PO11 0DH

Located about 15ft from the pavement fronting our house, we have an Home Oak which, for the last nineteen months since we have lived here, has continuously shed its leaves. We have sought expert opinions as to the reasons for this and the consensus of opinion is that this should not happen. We understand that this type of tree is usually found in a park or forest and was here before the houses were built - however, this sort of tree is Not conducive to "garden" life.

I list herewith, just some of the many reasons which I hope will support our reasoning behind our application:

Squirrels

The closeness of the branches to the house has meant that we have been inundated with squirrels gaining access to our loft. We are seriously concerned as to the potential threat to the electrics and the subsequent damage this could cause.

Damage to gutters

The branches are getting alarmingly close to the roof which will inevitably result in significant damage to our gutters and roof tiles.

Falling branches

The tree is prone to dropping small branches which have died off and this poses a real problem especially to our Grandchild when playing in the garden. Obviously we cannot sit under the tree for shade, simply because of these small branches and the continuous fall of leaves.

Tree removals

We have been advised by local garden experts that these home oaks are not indigenous to the Island, many of these trees were removed from the sea front some years ago. Whilst we understand that tree preservation orders are strenuously respected and adhered to, I have noticed that since we moved here, a number of large trees have been either cut down completely or radically pruned, particularly in Staunton. It is impossible to guess the reasons behind these actions, some have clearly been removed for cosmetic reasons I would guess.

Garden disruption

Since we moved to this house, we have spent a considerable amount of money in having the perimeter flower beds covered with grey slate flint in an attempt to keep the garden relatively 'low maintenance', but the leaves continuously falling from the home oak are proving a nightmare to remove. An ever increasing area of grass around the base area of the tree is slowly being killed off as the tree absorbs so much of the ground water. The shrubs around this area are also noticeably suffering. Black sap (?) has recently and unexplainably started dropping from the tree spoiling the very expensive paving stones that have been put down by the previous owners and even after a professional cleaner's attempts, these marks cannot be removed. We already have four very healthy trees bordering our fence/hedge and the pavement. We have no doubt that in time, the home oak will affect the growth of at least two of these trees.

Solution

We have absolutely no desire to remove trees that are so important to the environment, but due to our age, we cannot keep up with the maintenance and damage that this tree is causing. If the Council approves our request to remove the home oak, will fully accept (and approve) that it will be conditional on us replacing it with another mature tree, more in keeping like a Twisted Willow, Rowan, Camelia etc., any of which will be far more attractive and will only serve to enhance the look from St Helens Road. Should our request be approved, we are well aware that the removal and replacement (tree) costs to us will be considerable, so I hope you can understand that in writing this, we have given both long and considerable thought to this application.

HAVANT BOROUGH
COUNCIL

29 AUG 2012

RECEIVED