

11 JAN 2012

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ENCLOSURE re Application for tree work at 33 Longwood Ave Cowplam. TPO 1400
Further Information

Oak Tree History Sited on what was waste land between No 31 and 33 .It was cleared of rubbish and fenced by No 31 . This action was referred to HBC who took possessory title. The land was sectioned between No 31 and 33 on 99 yr leases. A TPO was applied to the oak tree that was on the No 33 triangular section . The trunk is 4 M from the garage and 6.8 M from the front entrance of the house . It has a circumference of 2,300 cm.

Past Work on Tree A number of applications have been made in the past. The last was in 2005 when pruning was refused in that it would affect environmental balance and visual amenity to the public.

Oak tree fall out. The passer by in admiring the spread of an oak tree has little understanding, other than leaf fall ,of the effects of the tree on surrounding area, namely :-

Falls of dead twigs and branches under canopy and beyond in spring and autumn.

Considerable amount of husks and spent blossom in spring

Pigeon droppings in spring and summer.

Tree debris and dust dropping with rain.(the amount of 'dust 'captured in the tree can be quite large)

Aphid droppings (honey/dew) .Equivalent to a fine spray of honey under canopy and beyond during and summer and autumn.

Leaf droppings in autumn and winter covering borders and lawns.

Residents problems over the last 39 years

Blocked gutters , discolored roof tiles with moss/algae growth.

Pigeon droppings harden on paved surfaces.Health hazard to grandchildren.

Tannin stains from debris trodden into house

Aphid droppings leave a sticky blackened surface on paved areas that when wet can be slippery and a hazard to occupants who are both disabled. Treated with Jeyes fluid in autumn /winter.

Droppings on cars in drive need to be washed down daily. A hose is adjacent for this purpose . The drive has been extended twice in attempt to park it well clear of the canopy. (parking a quality car under/near an oak tree is foolish) . It is for this reason that over a half of the drive is not used.

Leaves. Constant collection over a number of months with numerous trips to the amenity dump. Costly on petrol and not a good carbon footprint.

Threat of Subsidence . Evident at north wall of garage where mortar joints in bricks have opened up requiring filling in . A longitudinal crack has appeared in the concrete floor alongside the north wall. Action on this problem has yet to be taken.

Comments Although admired , oak trees are not suitable adjacent properties and no one in their right mind would plant an oak in such a place . Their rightful place is in open spaces or woodlands . This oak tree ,once tolerated, has slowly become a nuisance and a blight on our property . Unfortunately the requirements of the tree have overridden any considerations of residents affected.

The problem will increase in time and it is for these reasons I consider it should be felled and a smaller tree planted in lieu.

The tree it self has had signs of stress. For a number of years the acorns have fallen half developed and dried up. There is a large hollow in the base caused by canker and on the opposite side there is an area of rotting bark at soil level where fungal growth in the form of toadstools was noted in the summer.

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