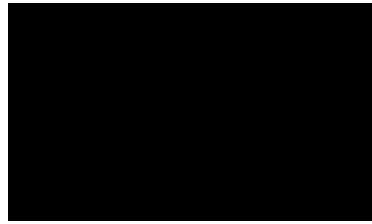


Planning Department
Havant Borough Council
Civil Centre Road
Havant
PO9 2AX



9.5.24

Your Ref: APP/24/00245

For the Attention of Mr D. Evans

Dear Sirs

Letter of Objection to be submitted to the Planning Committee

Site Address: Land south of Furlong House, Emsworth House Close, Emsworth PO10 7JR

Proposal: Proposed erection of a detached three-bedroomed house

I refer to your letter concerning the above dated 12 April 2024.

My wife and I wish to object to the above application, which relates to the erection of detached house on land the borders our rear garden. Of particular concern to us is the risks posed to our very large 350-year-old oak tree which is subject to a Tree Preservation Order. That tree is situated immediately adjacent to the fence separating our two properties.

The oak tree is very much a local landmark and much appreciated by the local residents. As such we regard ourselves as being its custodians for future residents of the area.

The Havant District Tree Preservation Officer recently inspected the tree. As a result, she is going to recommend that it be **upgraded to a Class A tree**, warranting the highest level of protection. She considers it to be in good health. The Tree Officer emphasised that the tree is an important part of the visual amenity of the area.

We have commissioned a report by Bernie Harverson, a well-regarded local arboricultural consultation, on the potential impact of building on the land adjacent to Furlong House might have on the oak tree (a copy of which is enclosed).

The key phrase in his report states “This development would lead to the undermining of the amenity value of this oak tree and very probably have a significant effect on its ongoing health and viability”

He has considered the terms of the Arboricultural Impact Appraisal submitted by the developer as part of his Application and makes the following points:

- The tree will dominate the garden space surrounding the proposed new house and as such the proposed development **constitutes over-development**.
- If the proposed development is to go ahead then the tree must be pruned back. That places the tree under threat. The Tree Preservation Officer commented that the request for consent

to prune up to a height of 6 metres is inappropriate. **Such heavy loping would be detrimental to the visual amenity of the tree.**

- The Application does not address how the development will ensure the continued viability of the tree given **the intrusion into the root system.**
- The proposed excavation on the site **will cause considerable damage to the tree and server roots.**

Also please note the planning application also proposes the cutting down two smaller sycamores and an ash tree - **further impacting on the area's visual amenity.** Such action would not be in keeping with the advice of the National Planning Policy Framework (2023) which states 'Trees make an important contribution to the character and quality of urban environments, and can also help mitigate and adapt to climate change.... existing trees are retained wherever possible'.

On the basis of the above we would ask the Planning Committee to reject the Application as currently framed.

Yours faithfully

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.