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NT BOROUGH
COUNCIL
4 SEP 2024
RECEIVED

Havant Borough Council
PO9 2AX

For the attention of the Tree Officer
Planning Application APP/24/00631 – TO FELL 4 Scots Pine trees at
58 Silvester Road, Cowplain PO8 8TS

You have invited us to comment on the above planning application submitted by Mr and Mrs Redman. We are pleased to do so in support of this, as we are the neighbours most directly affected by these four trees. We also attach a copy of our earlier submission dated 6 July 2022 in respect of the previous planning application, in case the document has been filed away, as the content therein is still relevant and still represents our concerns.

In addition, we would make several further submissions. We note that your letter to us dated 20 August 2024 lists the detail of Relevant Considerations, which includes Design, Appearance and Outlook: and also effect on Daylight, Privacy and Outlook. Case Officer Mr Peter Slegg, in his report recommending refusal of Application app/23/00176, made little or no reference to these factors, but only to assessing the proposed works. His statement that he only visually inspected the trees from ground level indicates that such inspection could only have been made from the corner of Silvester Road and Glenwood Gardens, this being the only point at which these four trees are visible '...from surrounding public areas...' (his words). As this point is some 80 to 100 yards from the actual tree location, and the intervening buildings in Silvester Road and Glenwood Gardens only permit sight of the upper branches, we do not believe that the trees '...make an important contribution to the landscape character...(or) ...having an important amenity value....' The trees are almost totally hidden from view by the houses in Silvester Road, Glenwood Gardens and Orchard Grove, and other neighbours to whom we have spoken likewise regard them as having '...no positive contribution to local amenity...'

We respectfully request that the report's findings in this instance be carefully reassessed.

Mr Slegg's report also states that no issues were raised concerning safety or impact on surrounding structures, which we believe to be erroneous. Our house at 1 Orchard Grove is the closest to the four trees, whose overhang comes within a few feet of the building. The prevailing weather patterns would include storms from the west and south-west, which could possibly bring the trees down directly onto both floors of the house. [redacted] during which time the trees have grown to a size far too large for the original amenity.

We are also concerned about the statement in paragraph 7.8 of Mr Slegg's report, which seems to be a catch-all with no supporting explanation of its relevance, yet it appears as Recommendation 1 in Section 9, the one and only reason for the refusal. Given the detailed submissions made by Mr and Mrs Redman, we see this as a matter for concern. We are given to understand that a new appointment has been made, given that it is four years since the previous Chief Arborist left the Council's employ, and we would respectfully ask that these submissions be given full consideration.

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