

Mr I and Mrs L Kingswell
73 Hulbert Road
Havant
PO9 3TB

Mr J Gargett
Havant Borough Council

Letter sent by email only

5 May 2016

Dear Sir

APP/16/00406 – 75 Hulbert Road

I refer to the above application to fell the Oak Tree in the rear garden of 75 Hulbert Road.

I am writing to submit our **formal objection** to this application for the following reasons.

The application states that the reason for the request to fell the tree is due to basal decay and safety reasons. As you know, the TPO 2040 was only confirmed in December 2015. I would have thought that if the tree was that dangerous that you would not have gone through with the TPO?

You will recall that it was me that put in the request that the tree be inspected with a view to having a TPO put on it. There were several reasons why I thought that the tree should be protected. The main reason being the amount of water that the tree soaks up; on research, I have discovered that a mature oak tree can absorb 50 gallons of water in a day (more on a hot day). Our garden at the moment is unusable 6 months of the year due to the amount of water on the grass. However, if this tree is removed this would become considerably worse.

The second reason for requesting the TPO was because at the time, the property (75 Hulbert Road), was on the market and we understood that it was being sold for development and I was concerned that there was a possibility that any developer would maybe try and build a property in the rear garden. Once the new owners had purchased the property my husband had a conversation with Mr Spurway in which my husband asked what their plans were for the property and the response was "we are not sure as we cannot touch the tree in the back". Ours thoughts, therefore, are that if they are successful in getting this tree removed, their next course of action would be to apply for permission to build in the garden and we believe this to be the real reason for wanting the tree removed.

We moved here in 2013 and the rear garden/surroundings (trees) were the one of the major factors for moving here. I'm obviously no expert but the tree appears to be a lovely specimen (and I am attaching a recent photograph from our rear bedroom window). I would hope that you would be doing a site visit to compile your own report on the trees' condition.

I refer to the letter from Mr Haverson following his visit to the site. The letter states that although he does have some concerns, he states that the "tree is not in imminent danger". I note that if successful, the applicants said that they will plant a standard sized oak at the bottom on the garden. This would in no-way replace the existing tree as it would take 100's of years to get to its size.

The Oak Tree is also a rich habitat for wildlife. There have been many occasions where we have sat and just watched the squirrels chasing each other up and down and along the branches. We have also seen several different unusual garden birds in and around the tree (ie Greater Spotted Woodpeckers and Tree Creapers).

Surely it would be better to treat such a fine specimen than to fell it.

Yours sincerely


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