

Date: 18th May 2015

Dear Sirs,

Re: Planning Application APP/15/00463

Planning application ref. no. APP/15/00463

Application site address: 41B Bedhampton Hill, Havant PO9 3JN

Applicant's Name: Mr R Osborne

Why I think permission should be given

The two sycamore trees, one of which has a double trunk, are growing very close to two adjoining properties with small gardens. They grow at an alarming rate. The double trunk tree is in a neglected state. It is choked with ivy growing up into the crown and there are numerous suckers growing out horizontally from the base and sides of the trunk. So the tree's girth has tripled and it is now more than 5 ft across.

There are other saplings all around which are left unchecked.

The trees are of doubtful amenity value to the community. They are not visible from the road and their impact on immediate neighbours is detrimental. The hundreds of seedlings damage our block stone driveway. The application of weed killer is a perpetual chore – pulling the seedlings out is known to undermine the drive's base material. Whereas I concede the trees support insect life, the aggressive and territorial behaviour of the incumbent pigeons ensures that other bird species are absent from our gardens, to say nothing of the mess that pigeon populations make on all other garden surfaces.

I support the application to remove the sycamores. They are foreign and in my opinion too invasive for small back gardens. I support the planting of native species to replace them. Trees with a lighter canopy and a smaller diameter trunk are far more suitable for this modest setting.

At the very least I would advocate taking out two of the trunks and leaving a single one. This would not compromise the crown, but the appearance may prove more acceptable.

Yours sincerely,

