

To whom it may concern

I am a resident of Stewart Borrow House, Hart Plain Avenue, Waterlooville, Hants and wish to give my views on the current application to cut back the trees at the rear of the building.

The trees in question are as follows; 4 oaks, 4 yews, 1 holly and 1 hawthorn and are actually sited at the end of the gardens of numbers 5 – 9a Oaklands Grove, Waterlooville, PO8 8PR.

These trees are **very tall and thick** and as such cut out an extreme amount of daylight from the flats at the rear of Stewart Borrow House. The ground floor flats in particular lose most of the daylight on an ordinary, fairly sunny day and this gets steadily worse as days get dull and dreary. On these days and rainy days we have to have our electric lights **on all day** just to be able to go about our normal activities. [REDACTED] on dull or rainy days it is like living in a dark cave and can be quite depressing.

I have done some research and found that even though these trees have a preservation order on them, applications can be made to have them **reduced in height by 2 metres and cut right back/thinned out** to the boundary fence to allow daylight through. Simply cutting them back to head height at the boundary fence makes no difference at all, they definitely need to be **reduced in height and thinned out**. The top floor flats actually have the branches tapping against their windows as the trees reach the building, this is not only annoying but dangerous to some extent especially on very windy days. We also have dead and broken branches falling on a regular basis – another safety consideration. Our garden and paths at the rear of the building are a minefield of acorns, branches and leaves at various times throughout the year and make walking very difficult. I myself have taken a broom out with me several times when I go to hang out my washing, so that I can sweep the path in front of me as I go! As most of the residents are elderly this is of great concern.

You are very welcome to come and visit to see for yourselves what we have to live like on dull or rainy days!

I sincerely hope that serious consideration is given to the matter of these trees, as the problems are only going to continue to get worse as these trees get older and more dangerous. I just hope that something is done before anyone gets hurt.

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns and views,