



0859.bjh.let

18th April 2016

Mr G Spurway
Spurway Scaffolding
8 Holst Way
Purbrook
PO7 5SJ

Dear Gavin,
TPO'd Oak tree at 75 Hulbert Road, Havant

I refer to our site meeting last week when we reviewed the condition of the Oak tree in your rear garden.

You have concerns regarding its safety in view of the basal cavity and decay and you needed my advice and guidance on this matter.

I inspected the tree for you from ground level and recorded the following information:-

Tree No.	Species	Height m	Diameter mm	Branch Spread m	Comments
1	Pedunculate Oak <i>Quercus robur</i>	13	700	N 8 E 8 S 8 W 8	1m tall and 0.5m wide cavity opening on east side of trunk at ground level—auger probe of 500mm length could be pushed through soft decay in places although most of the decay was fairly solid wood with woodworm attacking it—the trunk was sounded with a 'rubber headed mallet' and this revealed a cone of decay to 2m height from ground level—there was no sign of 'bootlaces' that might pinpoint the causal fungus but this is the most likely cause of decay—there are smaller cavity openings on the south side of the trunk which also have substantial decay noted—buttress rooting has thickened in an attempt to compensate for the loss of central core strength in the tree

This is not a huge tree but it is in a residential garden where safety is a prime concern. Whilst I do not think it is in imminent danger of structural failure the decay is active and will steadily get worse year on year.

Your choices are either to prune the tree to reduce the risk of failure by reducing the stresses on the basal area or have the tree removed now and consider planting a new tree perhaps further back into the Plot. I stress replanting because this will be a requirement of the local authority given that this is a tree covered by a Tree Preservation Order. I also recommend planting it further back into the garden because there is a similar sized Oak tree in your neighbours garden which when they are both in leaf will cause intense shading and obliterate and isolate the bottom section of your garden.

If we went with the pruning option then this would temporarily stabilise the tree but leave it looking very stumpy and undermine its long term amenity value -

T1 Oak – reduce in height by 1m and reduce in lateral spread by 1.5m to 2m overall.

N.B. – I noted that this tree has all of its foliage in the outer 1m to 1.5m so you would be removing this in the process of pruning the tree and it would look very stumpy because it is not possible to prune back to living growth points. This would not kill the tree and is likely to promote a mass of regrowth from the cut surfaces in time - but for a while it will look very bare!

There is also the factor of cost effective management to consider because the decay will get worse over time and in the interim you would have to undertake repeat pruning works on a 4 to 5 year cyclic basis for the remainder of the life of the tree. At the end of this you would then have the costs of having to have the tree felled and the stump ground out.

Overall I feel that the best option for you is to seek approval from the local authority to remove this tree and replant another one of the same species at the bottom of the Plot.

Yours sincerely,

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