

From: Mr G F Woodbridge MBE

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**Havant Borough Council
Public Service Plaza
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24 June 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find enclosed an application for tree work to two London Plane trees subject to Preservation Order number 1134.

My previous application approved in January 2013 allowed me to 'reduce their height to previous pruning points'. However, if possible I would wish to discuss the possibility of pruning them a little harder because of the following factors:

- a. These trees are only distanced just over 9 metres from the front of my two story detached house which is built on clay soil. Although there is currently no specific evidence of subsidence to my house, London plane trees carry a considerable number of very large leaves which extract a lot of moisture from the ground. I am concerned that during a particularly dry year this may cause future subsidence issues as the trees increase their foliage year on year. We have already recently noticed cracks in our concrete drive and have a suspicion that tree roots are growing into our soakaway that deals with rainwater draining from our roof.
- b. The height and width of the crowns on both trees reduce the light coming into our front rooms and make them very dark in the summer months. Overhanging branches also impede high sided lorries passing in front of the trees.
- c. You will be aware that London Plane trees form white dusty deposits on the back of their leaves during summer growth. This blows into our house in the prevailing winds and this has been particularly bad over the last two years causing both my wife and I to suffer from increasingly severe "hay fever" and wheezing, particularly at night as our bedroom faces the trees. This makes us both feel quite ill.
- d. You will also be aware pruning seems to encourage rapid growth. I actually had the trees pruned in early 2014 so I am now having to ask permission to prune every 3 years. Last pruning cost £300 and I am sure it will probably be £200 per tree next year. If you would agree to allow me to prune harder this would allow me to spread the cost over 4/5 years.

If possible I would like to attend your site visit to discuss possible options.

Yours faithfully,

