

APPENDIX C



April Shilstone
Legal Officer
Havant Borough Council
Public Service Plaza
Civic Centre Road
Havant
Hampshire PO9 2AX

29th May 2019

Dear Ms Shilstone,

Reference: AS/TPO 2091

I am the Executor of my father's estate. He died in November 2018 and his house (64B Stakes Road, Waterlooville, Hampshire) forms the primary part of his estate left to myself and my sister in his will. The house is currently on the market and concerns have been expressed by a succession of viewers of the property about the two beech trees now subject to the recent Provisional Tree Preservation Order. The concerns raised over the trees include access, subsidence and light.

Our family has owned the property since 1969 and the trees were of little concern to us 50 years ago but clearly they have now matured into significant specimens – worthy I would agree of retention if possible. The main driveway to the property is to the rear from Fircopse Road but there is also a hardstanding at the front of the property on Stakes Road. The hardstanding at the front was constructed soon after we moved to the property (perhaps in 1970) but access is somewhat limited from Stakes Road – the access acceptable if approaching from the west but unusable on this busy road if approaching from the east without swinging out into the oncoming lane. The entrance needs to be widened but this cannot be done without damaging the roots of this substantial tree that stands some one metre above and one metre to the east of this hardstanding.

So the primary reason that we asked a reputable company of tree surgeons to fell the tree was to be able to improve access however there are also some indications that the root structure is beginning to affect the property itself. The front garden is quite small – the tree stands about 6m from the front of the property. The house has been recently redecorated but when I was doing this I noticed consistent cracks (present in each room - ground and first floor) in the corner of the property closest to the tree. The hardstanding itself is also showing significant signs of movement.

Then finally of course there is the aspect of light – the tree obscures a very high proportion of the natural light from all rooms at the front of the house. This would be improved by significant thinning of the tree but light is for now the least of my concerns.

The tree at the rear of the property (Fircopse Road) is even more of a concern over access. Gates and gate posts were removed long ago – the gates were narrow, constrained somewhat by the presence of the tree. However even without the gates the tree is encroaching on the drive. It is extremely difficult to get into the drive when approaching from the Stakes Road end – you need to mount the pavement opposite (although there is a useful double driveway meaning that there is no kerb) to be able to swing into the drive. The tree on this side is essentially the new (and growing) gate post and therefore it is impossible to provide the much needed improved access and it is just getting worse with time (albeit in our case 50 years).

I am a keen environmentalist and I am loathe to remove any tree but sadly these two trees are in the wrong place and therefore I am appealing against the provisional tree preservation orders on each tree and seek the council's permission to remove them.

Yours sincerely,

