

Appendix A (Report PES/398) - Representations Received

From 6 Wilson Close (sent 6 October 2021)

Dear Mr Spurrell,

With reference to your letter received dated 1st October concerning a Tree Preservation Order.

May I refer to an email received from one of your colleagues reference DCPT362865945.

Your letter totally contradicts the email received confirming no issues to have the trees trimmed (not removed).

A lot of work has gone on obtaining quotes from registered tree surgeons and a job created to have the work done.

My question is - what has changed?

I also wish to point out that just yesterday 6th October I witnessed a double decker bus on learner training swerve at the last moment into the opposite lane to avoid an overhanging branch from our tree.

Another question - I trust that the council will be responsible should an accident occur as you oppose the trimming. Legal responsibility will fall on you as I have documented evidence that you will not allow trimming, this now is a health & safety issue?

This needs to be addressed urgently - from the opening of business today I hold the council responsible for any accidents, damage sustained to any person or vehicle.

If needed I will speak to the Police to visit the area & share my concerns and the potential serious incident from yesterday.

I need an urgent response please.

Yours sincerely
X

From 6 Wilson Close (sent 7 October 2021 05:19)

(In response to the following email)

On 15 Sep 2021, at 11:56, Trees, Protected <ProtectedTrees@crawley.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear X

According to our records the trees at the above location are not the subject of a Tree Protection Order nor are they in a Conservation Area. Therefore you do not require consent from Crawley Borough Council to carry out the works you describe.

Kind Regards

Susan Mitchell

Dear Ms Mitchell,

Thank you for your email regarding the information concerning that our trees are not protected.

I received a letter 2 days ago from the council that the trees are NOW protected from trimming.

The letter states that the trees have long term value & potential.

So what has changed, also why has your email been contradicted? Could you investigate this please.

In my appeal I stated that I witnessed a double decker bus swerve into the opposite lane on Lucerne Drive at the last minute to avoid our overhanging and overgrown trees.

The bus driver was under training. Had a vehicle been coming in the opposite direction then this could have been a fatality.

I also included in the appeal that for urgent health & safety reasons that trimming has to take place.

I am guessing that the council are now responsible should any accidents or injuries take place then it is out of my hands.

Please can you get back to me as soon as possible. I have appointed a registered tree surgeon at great expense to professionally trim the trees to a safe & acceptable level.

The work is already booked in following your response.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

X

From 6 Wilson Close (sent 7 October 2021 11:57)

(In response to the following email)

On 7 Oct 2021, at 11:34, Trees, Protected <ProtectedTrees@crawley.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear X

This is a matter for the Tree Officer, Mr Russell Spurrell, to address.

I have forwarded your email to him.

He is not in the office today, but I believe he will be tomorrow, as will I. I will discuss then.

Do you have the TPO reference?

Kind Regards

Susan Mitchell

Dear Ms Mitchell,

Thank you for getting back to me.

The reference on the letter is Ref 07/2021.

Already this morning I heard a large crash from what appears to be a high sided lorry coming into contact with the overhanging branches.

Please can you raise this as urgent, as detailed to Mr Spurrell this is a health & safety issue to motorists as the passing public walkers & children. I am not responsible for injuries & damage.

The email chains are being held for the possibility of legal proceedings to the council.

Thank you again for your response.

Kind regards

X