

Sent: 12 October 2022 09:38

To: Trees, Protected <ProtectedTrees@crawley.gov.uk>

Subject: English oak (St Joan close)

Dear Mr Spurrell,

I recently received a letter regarding a provisional tree preservation order on an English Oak (St Joan Close No.1. Grid ref: TQ-26877-38259).

I am writing to you about some questions and concerns I have against this. This oak tree backs onto our gardens (26/ 28 Ivanhoe close) and is particularly over grown and some of the branches are nearly touching house windows. I have concerns that if we gain heavy winds or have a storm, the branches may break which could cause major damage to our properties.

I believe this tree is privately owned and not a council tree as we have spoken to the owner who has had quotes on getting it cut back but due to financial reasons is unable to attend to the tree.

The tree however next to that one is a council tree and at the beginning of the year was Pollard'd as it was in the same shape and size.

I totally agree that the tree should stay and are important to the environment and am happy to have a preservation. However, I would like to ask if this tree could be trimmed/ cut to a more stable state. As it looks like it hasn't had any work done to it for at least 10 years. I also understand that these trees should be trimmed to stop the roots progressing under the houses? If this was done then I would be happy to accept the preservation order.

I would also like to ask who is liable for this tree if anything should happen? For instance if not attended to and it causes any damage?

I look forward to your reply,

Kind regards

(26 Ivanhoe close)

RECEIVED

28 OCT 2022

CRAWLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

46 Upfield
Horley
Surrey
RH6 7LF

26 October 2022

Economy & Planning Services
TPOs
Crawley Borough Council
Town Hall
The Boulevard
Crawley
RH10 1UZ

Recorded delivery

Re: Provisional Tree Preservation order
Crawley Borough Order St Joan Close No 1

Dear Sirs

I write as joint owner and as landlord, of 28 Ivanhoe Close, Langley Green, having received your notice of the provisional tree preservation order.

I object to the proposed order on two grounds:

- 1) That the provisional order contains errors and has not been drawn up properly;
- 2) That the oak tree has none of the virtues specified in the notice sent to us.

The notice comes with a map purporting to show the position of the tree. This is incorrect because the map puts the tree in the wrong garden. Also, the canopy of the tree is larger than indicated and covers a different area.

Council officers have obviously not visited the site before seeking this order because they claim the tree has "good shape and form". In fact the tree has an enormous and untidy canopy covering a huge area and can in no way be said to have "good shape and form".

The tree unfortunately does not have "significant long term potential". Any inspection would reveal that it is overgrown and diseased, with many dead branches and others where leaves are discoloured during the height of the growing season.

It is not true to say that the tree is "clearly visible from the public highway". The only highway near it is Ivanhoe Close, and it is not "clearly visible" from there because it is way back from the road, behind a fairly long car park.

The application claims that the tree is "prominent in the locality". Prominent (as defined in the Concise Oxford Dictionary: jutting out, projecting; conspicuous, distinguished) is not something that applies to it. It is only conspicuous because its oversized canopy covers part of the car park, the gardens of several houses in St Joan Close and the garden of 28, Ivanhoe Close – where it cuts out light, drops debris and is a considerable nuisance.

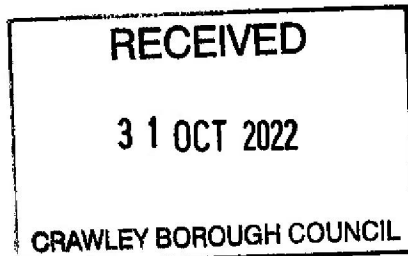
It does not have "significant amenity value"; amenity (Oxford Dictionary) is "pleasantness (of place, person etc)". This is a big, ugly tree with diseased branches that keeps light from a large area, drops dead wood and other material which spoils my tenant's garden – and in the autumn drops huge volumes of dead leaves which have to be gathered up. It also drops dead wood and other material including dead leaves on the car park and vehicles parked there. Amenity and pleasantness are absent.

In no way is the tree "visually important" in the local area, as the council's application claims. Rather, it is a blight on its surroundings, keeps out light and is more of an eyesore than something visually appealing.

I would add that because of its poor condition, the tree is a danger. My tenant, Mr Heath, is very concerned because dead wood from it had been falling into his garden, where his young grandchildren like to play. He says that ~~one~~ large piece of the tree actually fell near one of the children.

I do realise the importance of preserving valuable trees, and in the past managed to obtain a TPO for a walnut tree I had planted myself. I also understand that it is important to preserve the nation's oak trees. However the huge, dangerous and diseased tree that it subject to this wrongly drawn up provisional order is out of place in an urban area of small gardens, is a danger and nuisance - and should not be made the subject of a TPO.

Yours faithfully



28 Ivanhoe Close
Langley Green
Crawley
RH11 7UF

27 October 2022

Economy & Planning Services
TPOs
Crawley Borough Council
Town Hall
The Boulevard
Crawley
RH10 1UZ

Re: Provisional Tree Preservation order
Crawley Borough Order St Joan Close No 1

Dear Sirs

I am the tenant of 28 Ivanhoe Close, Langley Green, and wish to register my objection to the above proposal.

The provisional order contains errors and has not been drawn up properly; also the tree has none of the virtues claimed as reasons for the order.

The notice comes with a map supposedly showing the position of the tree. This is incorrect because the map puts the tree in the wrong garden. Also, the canopy of the tree is larger than indicated and covers a different area.

Council officers can't have visited the site before seeking this order because they claim the tree has "good shape and form". In fact the tree has an enormous and untidy canopy covering a huge area and can in no way be said to have "good shape and form".

Also, the tree does not have the claimed "significant long term potential". Any inspection would have shown that it is overgrown and diseased, with dead branches and other unhealthy ones where leaves are discoloured during the height of the growing season.

It is not true to say, as the council's notice claimed, that the tree is "clearly visible from the public highway". The only nearby highway is Ivanhoe Close, and it is not "clearly visible" from there because it is a long way back, round a bend and behind a long car park.

The application claims that the tree is "prominent in the locality" but it is only conspicuous because its oversized canopy covers part of the car park, the gardens of several houses in St Joan Close and the garden of 28, Ivanhoe Close - all places where where it cuts out light, drops debris and is a considerable nuisance.

It does not have "significant amenity value"; it has no amenity value at all and is just a big, ugly overgrown tree with diseased branches that keep out light, drop dead wood and other sticky material that spoils my garden - and in the autumn the tree drops huge volumes of dead leaves which have to be gathered up.

It also drops dead wood and other material including leaves on the car park and vehicles, including my own, that are parked there.

In no way is the tree "visually important" in the local area, as the council's application claims. Rather, it is a blight on its surroundings and is an eyesore.

Because of its poor condition, the tree is a danger. My young grandchildren like to play in my garden and a large chunk of wood falling from this tree fell close to one of them. Also, sticky stuff falling from the tree and other bits including acorns spoil my lawn.

Council officials have apparently failed to give any information about this tree since inquiries started in April to see whether it was subject to a TPO - despite many requests and many broken promises to produce a reply. They should at least have visited the site before seeking this ill-conceived and wrongly drawn-up application for a TPO, which should be rejected.

Yours faithfully

Received Planning
8.11.2022

30 St Joan Close
Langley Green
Crawley
RH11 7SW

5 November 2022

Economy & Planning Services
TPOs
Crawley Borough Council
Town Hall
The Boulevard
Crawley
RH10 1UZ

Re: Provisional Tree Preservation order
Crawley Borough Order St Joan Close No 1

Dear Sirs

I am writing to object to the proposal to make the above provisional order permanent. I believe the order relates to a large and diseased oak tree at the bottom of my garden.

However I cannot believe that the order can be made in its present form because the order includes a map showing the location of the supposedly protected tree. The map has placed the tree in a neighbour's garden - ~~where there is no tree~~.

I also object to the order because it meets none of the reasons given for making it.

- 1) The tree does not have "good shape and form" as the letter claims. It is, as council officers would have seen if they had been to see it, enormous and overgrown with a huge canopy that blights a large area where it drops debris and cuts out light.
- 2) It does not have "significant long term potential". It is unstable, parts of it are dead and diseased and it is a danger to the area.
- 3) The tree is not "prominent" and has no amenity value. If council officials believe it has "amenity value" and is a distinguished feature I would be interested to hear of their reasoning behind this.

4) The tree is definitely not visible from the public highway. Whoever made this claim clearly has no knowledge of the area; the only nearby highway is Ivanhoe Close - and from there it is around the bend in an access road and at the end of a car park. To say it is "clearly visible from the public highway" is nonsense.

5) In no way is the tree "visually important" in the area. It is however very visually intrusive to me and my neighbours, in that its canopy covers a large area of this fairly densely developed area where it cuts out light and drops large amounts of dead wood, leaves and other debris. Rather than being "important", it is a considerable nuisance.

I would particularly ask council members not to approve of this order on the basis that as owner of the tree I can apply for permission to trim and lop it.

This is because it is exceedingly difficult to communicate with the people who deal with these protection orders. Together with neighbours I had been trying since March of this year to find out whether the tree has been subject to a TPO. Despite several requests and promises that the matter would be dealt with, including help from a local council member, we could get no information from officials over a period of about 10 months. I would not want to go through this stonewalling again in order to seek permission to make my tree safe and in a state that would no longer constitute a nuisance.

The tree is an enormous, overgrown and diseased thing which is a considerable worry to me, particularly since an incident when a neighbour's grandchild was nearly hit by a large piece of dead branch which fell into his garden. It does not warrant a TPO being placed on it, as council staff would have seen had they only visited the site and perhaps even consulted me as its owner.

Please do not make this ill-conceived order permanent.

Yours faithfully