

APPENDIX A

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 February 2023 15:26
To: Trees, Protected [REDACTED]
Subject: TPO request 139 Three Bridges Road

Dear Russell

Thank you for your time earlier today.

As discussed we have chosen to personally reply to this notification.

We would like to dispute the TPO order - and as discussed the grounds for the initial viewing were highly suspicious.

Due to the nature of the tree - we asked for dead branches to be removed and the overhanging branches to be cut back. We hired a reputable tree surgeon [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

There are 2 oak trees in question. Neither have TPOs in place which was checked with the council prior to purchasing this property and at the time no plans in place for TPOs to be issued. With this in mind this property was purchased. There should already be an email chain as proof of this.

In regards to natural beauty - both these trees are located in an enclosed garden, with properties at all boundaries. There is no access to these trees unless through my rear garden (which is not large). From the road - which is a busy main road, the trees are visible - however I do not understand how they are more/less significant than all the other trees visible from this position, considering only the tops of the trees are visible from this point. Opposite my house there remains the remnant of tilgate forest and further down my road there are a number of significant trees. So I do not see how these trees in question add significant value over and above the current background especially considering this is not a conservation area.

Having said that - I do appreciate these trees and as much as possible have looked to maintain them in keeping with the character of our garden. The reason for the recent trim was following a health and safety concern for our children. Our family have not been able to enjoy our personal garden, because of the large tree to the centre of it, there is considerable concern over the risks posed by falling branches and acorns. It is for this reason we would like to maintain control over these trees and do not see how our actions are posing significant concern to the wellbeing of the trees that warrant a TPO.

Our wishes are that our family can enjoy our garden that we have worked hard for, free from concern of serious injury and for that reason we would like to maintain control over our property. Like I imagine most people do after they invest a significant amount in where they live.

[REDACTED] feel that it is unreasonable not to consider the basis of this initial request, prior to considering the request itself. [REDACTED]

We have no intentions of felling either tree however maintain that this decision should be within our control as it was when we purchased the property almost 2 years ago and it has been since prior to 1960s when the property was built.

Placing a group TPO significantly impacts our decision to live here as a family - the dangers posed by the large tree in the middle are not insignificant and I am worried for the health and wellbeing of my family. If this is not considered, I have placed formally in writing such that the council are aware of our concerns for any future matter arising from this.

Considering there are 2 trees that are being considered - although my wishes are that no TPO is granted. I am willing to concede that the oak tree on the border of my property on right as looking at it provides beauty as described AND does not pose a risk so could at least consider this as an amenable solution.

However I would see this very much as a co-operative solution. If both trees are granted TPOs, considering the safety of my family I would have no option but to consider relocating and explore further legal options.

I hope you will consider our views surrounding our house with reason and understand the need to balance a right for a family to enjoy their own property without restriction. As said considering the nature of this request - my first position is that no TPO is granted at all and the request is rejected.

On a separate note - I do think there should be some levels of protection in place such that programmes like this cannot be exploited as a means to cause stress and undue suffering on others.



[REDACTED]

McPherson, Jean

[REDACTED]

Sent: 13 March 2023 12:20
To: Trees, Protected
Subject: TPO No.02/23

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I am writing with respect of the above TPO affecting the two oak trees on our boundary at 92 Gales Drive, Three Bridges – and wish to make the following points:-

1. During our 30 years living in the property we have only had these trees slightly pruned once.
2. The occupants of 139 Three Bridges Road on the other hand have had their side of the trees lopped twice in the 12 months they have lived there – the most recent being about a month ago when they had large boughs taken of the much larger tree overhanging their garden.
3. Our concern is for the much weaker spindlier tree on the left side facing our border. This has been neglected over the years to the extent that it has long strappy branches at the top – which are very precarious in high winds since they have little support. It is consequently much higher than its more robust neighbour and in addition is leaning about 30 degrees over the boundary towards our property. Many of the branches are dead- and in strong gusts are often blown onto our garden.
4. We raised concerns about the safety of this tree when the Planning Department were dealing with the extension to 139 Three Bridges Road – REF CR/2021/059/FUL. We also noticed that the planning officer himself questioned the closeness of these trees to the proposed extension – even though they are closer to our house than the newly constructed extension to 139 Three Bridges Rd. We received no feedback on our objection and the planning work was approved.
5. All we are looking to do at the moment is to have a professional tree surgeon take off some of the long strappy branches at the very top of the thinner tree so that it no longer poses a danger to our property over which they are completely hanging. This should strengthen the tree and make it the same time allows us some early morning light sunshine.
6. We would welcome someone from the council visiting us to see our problem.

I look forward to hearing from you.

[REDACTED]

