

11/01/11

Head of Legal
Equalities and Democratic Services
Bromsgrove District Council
The Council House
Burcot Lane
Bromsgrove
Worcestershire, B60 1AA

Dear Sir,

Appeal Against:-

Tree Preservation Order (No 14) 2010, dated 24th September 2010.



The rear garden of my home backs onto the small woodland area which is subject of the Tree Preservation Order (No 14).

The woodland area has not been managed or maintained for many years and this has resulted in a number of trees becoming unstable, weakened by disease or engulfed by ivy. On a number of occasions weakened trees or large fragments of them have snapped off during high winds and they have fallen into resident's gardens or across the public footpath which runs through the woodland. Fortunately no one has yet been injured and only minimal damage has been inflicted on resident's gardens.

Trees such as Hazel and Sycamore have been allowed to re seed annually and they are so overgrown that they form a dense hedge along our boundary lines. This hedge is a minimum of 3 meters in height and it obstructs the natural light to a number of homes and gardens, including my own. If these trees/hedge was growing in a neighbour's garden their height **would be considered illegal**. Our gardens are small and the hedge (tree line) is a maximum of 4 meters from the back of our properties. In addition to the hedge a large Cherry Tree overhangs my garden by up to 3 meters and it is now dangerously close to my building line.

During the last three years the area of woodland in question has been the subject of numerous complaints from residents of Poplar Close and Woodbank Drive. These complaints have been made to the previous owner [REDACTED], to Bromsgrove District Council and issues have also been raised with local Councillors and the MP. In 2009 a number of site visits were made by the Tree Officer [REDACTED] who advised that the land was subject of a Preservation Order. He apparently gave [REDACTED] permission for some works to be carried out, but to date nothing has been done to **make the area safe** or to improve the light to our homes.

Whilst the residents of Poplar Close enjoy the privacy of the Woodland and the wildlife attracted to the area I do not believe that a full preservation order is necessary to conserve it. I have spoken to the current land owners who have shown a willingness to manage the land for the future enjoyment and safety of everyone living in the area. Local residents are prepared to work with them in order to keep management costs to a minimum; however if the whole area is made subject of a Preservation Order, full consultation and licences will be required before any work can be carried out. This will prove to be time consuming and costly for both the Council and the present land owners. With that in mind it may be more prudent and beneficial for all, if consideration were given to making some of the trees (such as large Oaks) subject of individual Tree Preservation Orders – TPO's. These orders could be strategically located so as to make any development of the area difficult. This would then allow the sympathetic management of other trees and would provide a solution to the problems of residents.

Local residents feel strongly about preserving this land and we would robustly object to any building development on it, now or at any time in the future.

Yours sincerely

