

APPENDIX (2)

Mrs Angela Arch
260 Stourbridge Road
Catshill
Bromsgrove
B61 9LQ



Gavin Boyes, Senior Tree Officer
c/o Bromsgrove District Council
Parkside
Market Street
Bromsgrove
B61 8DA

24th September 2024

Dear Mr Boyes,

RE: 256 Stourbridge Road, Catshill, Bromsgrove B61 9LQ – Removal of Mature Beech Tree Close to Ground.

In relation to the above, I write to inform you that I am in full support of Mr & Mrs Eastwood and their application to have the Beech tree removed. The tree is not only dangerous, it is causing emotional and physical distress not only to Mr & Mrs Eastwood, myself and my family but also to neighbouring properties and families.

Please see below my concerns regarding the Beech tree:

Debris That Falls From The Tree.

The Beech tree loses lots of branches some of which are of a considerable size. Back in March of this year a huge branch fell from the tree narrowly missing my Grandson's head clipping him on his shoulder. Fortunately at the time my Grandson had his winter coat on which protected him from any injury to his shoulder. When this occurred my Grandson was 2 years and 9 months old. Should that branch have struck his head he would have received awful injuries, no doubt requiring medical attention. I have retained all the branches should you wish to see them.

The tree sheds small splinter like needles that are very sharp. I have had one blown into my eye and scratch my eyeball that was extremely painful. My dog recently had surgery and upon letting him out into the garden to do his duties several of these splinter type things got into his stitches which it caused him great distress on removal and cleansing. I had been sweeping them up constantly on a daily basis but it is physically impossible to keep on top of them. The bristly seed pods that fall from the tree are dangerous. They are very hard, spiky and difficult to walk on. Again, trying to keep on top of clearing them all up is just a physical impossibility.

Lack of light.

The size of the Beech tree does not allow much sunlight into my garden. I get some at the very back, some by my garage in the morning then in the evening I get it on the left side of my garden only. Sunlight is essential for human beings, generating the production of vitamin D, supporting bone health, lowering blood pressure, preventing disease and promoting good mental health. I along with Mr & Mrs Eastwood are being deprived of these vital health benefits because of the Beech tree. Being deprived of such benefits on our own properties is having a negative impact on all of us.

Drainage System.

Severn Trent have said that the tree roots are not yet causing damage to the drainage system. However, it is simply common sense to know that as the roots grow they will cause damage. The saying "Prevention is better than cure" springs to mind with this issue. Not only will it affect my property and Mr & Mrs Eastwood's but several more properties on the Stourbridge Road and many more on Brookside Drive which will prove extremely costly. Having done some research, it would appear that the council may be liable for any costs incurred by the tree root damage to the drainage system as they have not heeded the concerns raised about it by the owners of the land on which the tree is growing and have refused the application to have tree taken down as per their request.

Pigeon Droppings.

The amount of pigeon droppings in my and Mr & Mrs Eastwood's gardens is beyond extreme. I must physically spend 3 hours about 3 – 4 times a week scraping it off my garden. I have to remove it due to caring for my Grandson, my dog and having visitors which includes my Mom who has multiple health conditions. Such large amounts of pigeon droppings in a relatively small area can cause severe health issues. These include; Histoplasmosis, Psittacosis, E.coli, Salmonella and Cryptococcosis. These illnesses can be severe and even result in death in some instances. The people who are most at risk of contracting such diseases are children, people with weakened immune systems and the elderly. With me caring for my Grandson who is now only 3 and having my Mom visit this is of grave concern to me. Pigeon droppings release tiny particles into the air as it falls and lands. These particles are also released while I am scraping it up which is in fact, potentially putting myself at risk of contracting a disease. If I do not remove the droppings then it has a huge impact on me, my family and my dog. I can not have my Grandson playing in the garden when the garden is covered in it. He will tread in it, if he stumbles and puts his hands down he will be in direct physical contact with it, when he goes on his scooter or bike the wheels get covered in it, when he plays with his football the ball gets covered in it. I can look after my Grandson up to 5 days a week depending on his parents working shifts and this can entail a ridiculous amount of time scraping up pigeon droppings. My Mom, who was of the belief that she could have a little bit of life back by spending time doing what she loves pottering around gardening in my garden that is level as opposed to her tiered garden that she now struggles with is not happening now as the amount of pigeon droppings could seriously affect her. My Mom suffers from Asthma, Bronchiectasis, Heart Failure, IgG Deficiency and stage 3B chronic kidney disease. No one suffering any these illnesses should be exposed to extreme amounts of pigeon

droppings as it could be fatal. My dog is suffering too, I'm constantly having to clean his paws due to the droppings. He has had several droppings land on him which is a nightmare to get out of his fur. The only way to do it is by bathing him and as he is a small Shih Tzu he should not be bathed too often as it affects the oils in their skin and can cause very sore skin irritations on the dog. Being a widow and living on my own means it is very important to me to have my family around and that my dog is happy. Due to the pigeon droppings this is just not the case. Defra and England's General Licence state that pigeons can be removed to preserve public safety.

Dead Pigeons Falling From The Tree.

In the last 4 months I have had 3 dead pigeons in my garden. I can only assume they have fallen out of the tree. As my property backs onto Battlefield Brook it is inevitable that there will be rats in the vicinity. Having dead pigeons about clearly will not help this as a dead pigeon is obviously a good food source for rats. We all try hard to keep the rats at bay by not putting out any forms of food. Having to pick up and dispose of dead pigeons is not a pleasant experience especially as they are flea ridden birds.

Mr & Mrs Eastwood.

I have got to know Mr & Mrs Eastwood fairly well over the past 5 months and it genuinely saddens me to see how distraught and upset they are over the impact the Beech tree is having on their lives. Their garden is not fit for purpose and unsafe for them as the tree roots have raised the garden so much that it is unsafe for them to walk on. They are fully aware that such a Beech tree has shallow roots and they worry that should the tree fall that they will be liable for the damage. Mr Eastwood and I have spoken to the legal departments of our home insurance and have been advised (not confirmed) that as the council are aware of the issues raised regarding the tree and of Mr & Mrs Eastwood's request to have the tree removed then any liability to damage caused by the tree to property will potentially lie with the council. The pigeon dropping in their garden covers everything, they can not even hang washing out to dry as nor can I. Mrs Eastwood suffers from asthma and arthritis. She should not be around pigeon droppings or have uneven land in her garden as both are unsafe for her and are both issues caused by the tree. The couple have not been able to spend time in their own garden for several years due to all the problems the tree is causing. To get out for some fresh air and sunlight they have to walk to and sit in the Meadows Park. How upsetting is that. These people have worked hard in their lives, they are both now retired and can not even enjoy sitting in their own garden. In 2024 the older members of our community should not be made to live in such circumstances. Mr & Mrs Eastwood have told me that their property is potentially no longer mortgageable due to the tree as its roots have damaged the garden so badly and the roots are too close to the house. Looking to the future this could have a massive impact on them. What if one of them is taken ill or has to go into care?? The property can not then be sold. What if as they get older they can no longer maintain that property and need to downsize?? They will not be able to. They will become prisoners in that property. Therefore, they have no prospect of making life easier for themselves in later life all because of a tree. It seems ironic that they have paid out thousands of pounds over the years to maintain the tree.

Impact On Everyday Life And Mental Health.

The Beech tree has a massive impact on everyday life. If my daughter wants to pop round with my Grandson she has to give me a few hours notice so I have time to clear up the pigeon droppings. I constantly worry when my Grandson is in the garden in case another large branch is to fall and hit him or my dog or me. If want family / friends to come over in the good weather we have to time it so we have that small window of sunlight in the garden otherwise we are just sat in the dark. My Mom and I are very close but we are not able to spend as much time together as she is not able to potter about in my garden as she wanted. This obviously affects my Dad too as he sees how much it upsets my Mom and I and I am conscious that Dad is not getting the rest he needs as I am not with my Mom so much doing what she loves. I believe that the tree roots are now beginning to uplift some of the slabs in the rear of my garden now making it a trip hazard just like next door. The constant sweeping up of the needle like things and seed pods is a physical nightmare and has started to impact on my work time. I am just constantly doing it. This is to the point where sometimes I can not go out because I know if I do not sweep it up then the entire garden will be covered and I then risk my dog stepping on something that will get stuck in his paws. This is not living a life; it is having life dictated to you by a tree.

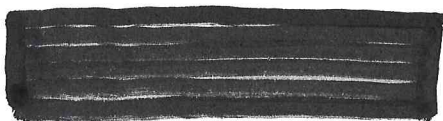
Conclusion.

I am not against the tree at all but when a tree's existence is being put before the lives of human adults, children and domestic animals I think it unfair. Should the tree be taken down, I would not be averse to planting a tree sapling maybe in the Meadow or somewhere else suitable where a tree belongs and it can grow and flourish. This beech tree does not belong in a residential garden. The letter of refusal for the removal of the Beech tree states, "for reasons of public and visual amenity". In all seriousness 99% of people will not even notice the tree has gone. However, to us living under the tree, we will notice, and it will improve our quality of life by 100%.

I hope that you take on board all the points I have raised and take them seriously. Lives are being impacted by this Beech tree and not for the better.

Should you wish to discuss any of the concerns that I have raised please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Kind Regards,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Angela Arch

APPENDIX (2)

Gavin Boyes - Arboricultural Team

From: Donaldshare [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 October 2024 15:58
To: tarek.ball@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk
Subject: Reference TPO24/170

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Sent from my iPad. Dear Mr Ball

With reference to application reference TPO24/170 we are writing to confirm that we are in full support of Mr & Mrs Eastwood's application to remove the Beech tree at 256 as we believe that it is a hazard to our property and surrounding properties.

We are worried that if the tree was to come down in adverse weather conditions it could damage our house. We appear to already be experiencing damage to our garden wall from the roots of the tree and this is obviously of concern as the roots could in fact affect our property. As you stated, in a previous visit to Mr & Mrs Eastwood they spread in all directions at a distance in relation to the height of the tree. We also have problems with the amount of leaves that fall from the tree as they completely block our gutters and down pipes.

We believe that it would be in the best interest for all persons living close to the tree, that the Beech be removed. This would dispel any worries and further damage occurring

Mr Donald Share
254 Stourbridge road
Catshill
Bromsgrove
B61 9LQ

APPENDIX (2)

Gavin Boyes - Arboricultural Team

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 01 November 2024 15:12
To: tarek.ball@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk
Subject: Application Reference TPO24/170

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With regard to the application to fell the Beech Tree in the rear garden of 256 Stourbridge Road Catshill, I totally support this application for the following reasons:

1. This tree is totally unsuitable to be in a small residential garden.
2. I am concerned that as this tree is on the bank of Battlefield Brook it will become unstable and not only do damage to 256 but could also damage 254 and my house 252 Stourbridge Road. With the effect of climate change, the level of the brook has approached the top of the bank a number of times this year, thus eroding the soil on the bank. There has already been one instance locally of a mature tree on the edge of his brook coming down, narrowly missing people.
3. The tree is home to numerous pigeons whose excrement is a health risk, particularly to small children.
4. During autumn the shedding of its leaves covers numerous gardens, including my own. As an 81 year old widower living alone, this is a task I should not have to do a number of times over a short time to ensure my front drive is safe and I do not slip and fall down and injuring myself.

I would fully support a replacement tree being installed in a more suitable location

Regards

Keith Orgill

APPENDIX (2)

 Outlook

Tree Felling 256 Stourbridge Road Catshill Worcestershire

From Gwyn Jones 

Date Sun 27/10/2024 11:59

To tarek.ball@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk <tarek.ball@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk>

IMPORTANT NOTICE: This email originated from outside the organisation.
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Dear Mr Ball

I have just received a letter from a Ruth Bamford regarding a tree felling at the above address. I live on the other side of the brook directly opposite Mr & Mrs Eastwood and have many discussions about the size of this beech tree. The amount of Pidgeon dropping we get on our property is becoming a health hazard as i have to clean this mess up at least once a week. We sometimes look after my daughter's dog which is a spaniel which has his nose to the ground all the time i would hate for this animal to pick up any diseases carried by these Pidgeon's. I originally erected a small patio area where my wife and i could sit in the summer as we are both retired this become Impossible due to being bombarded by pigeon mess not very pleasant as you can well imagine. Every autumn as the leaves start falling i have to pick up literary bin falls of these leaves every week or you can carry them into the car and house on your shoes. Concerning the leaves that fill my gutters and down pipes i have tried different methods of stopping the leaves going into the down pipes but the leaves back up at this point. I am now 73 years of age and don't want be climbing up a ladder every week or two to clear these blockages. I think Mr & Mrs Eastwood have suffered enough with this tree and so have we and our direct neighbours and thing this tree is far to big to be in a small garden and support them 100% in having this tree felled asap. This letter should be added as supporting evidence to the file **Planning Application TPO24/170**

Regards

Mr & Mrs Gwyn Jones

6 Brookside Drive

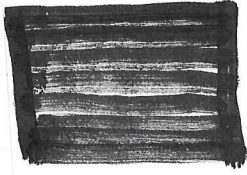
Catshill

Bromsgrove

B619LD

APPENDIX (2)

Councillor Shirley Webb



15th October 2024

Ref Mr & Mrs Eastwood Ref PP13458640

Dear Gavin

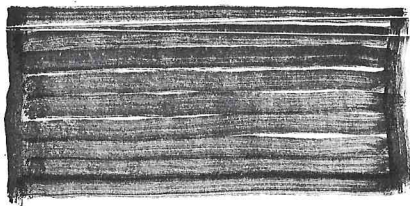
Following our email conversation regarding the Beech Tree in Mr and Mrs Eastwoods property at 256 Stourbridge Road, Catshill. I understand you have made a site visit as has Tarek in the last year or so.

Mr & Mrs Eastwood approached me as the application to remove the tree was refused. This tree is now taking over their small garden and we believe presents a risk of serious harm, due to its size and position, to the occupants of the surrounding properties, any members of the public entering the boundaries of said properties and members of the public passing the area in question, whether on foot or in a vehicle on the Stourbridge Road.

Mr and Mrs Eastwood are suffering with their mental health and wellbeing due to not being able to sit in their own garden, the tree roots are lifting their patio and the shed due to the size. This tree was TPO'd due to a neighbour not wanting the house to be built in the first place. The build went ahead and the tree has outgrown the size of the garden. The worry the damage this tree would cause is a big strain to them both. Mr and Mrs Eastwood would like to enjoy their retirement in their own garden and would welcome the opportunity to plant another tree in the village in a more suitable area.

I have visited them both on a few occasions and can see the stress this is causing them both, I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

With many thanks and kind regards



Clr Shirley Webb

