Miss Ruth Cheater
District Manager
Hinkler Community Centre
328 Hinkler Road
Thornhill
Southampton
SO19 6DF

16 Heather Court
Mountain Ash Close
Southampton
Hampshire
SO18 5SJ

Tel: (E-mail:

11th March 2013

Dear Miss Cheater

At the request of the residents of Heather Court please find enclosed a copy of the petition for the removal of trees from the Court car parking area. It should be noted that this has been signed by almost all residents. Also attached is a marked picture indicating which trees, in particular, are causing the nuisance and inconvenience to residents. Further information is provided within the content of the petition itself.

Whilst I realise you may not be the appropriate person/department to contact it is hoped that you may be able to assist or otherwise pass this petition to the appropriate/person department. In any case we would be very grateful for your help and guidance regarding this matter.

I should add that I am not an official spokesperson for the Heather Court residents as, at this juncture, a Residents Association has yet to be formed. In the event the task herein has fallen to a handful of residents, including myself, to represent those attached to this petition. Nonetheless, do feel free to contact me, as above, to discuss further. If I am unavailable for any reason then Mr M. Goodwin (Flat 17) or Mr S. Barnard (Flat 19) may also be contacted for further information and discussion.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely.



27th February 2013

Heather Court Residents Petition for the Removal of Trees

To whom it may concern,

The following is a petition, from the residents of Heather Court, Mountain Ash Close, Southampton, for the removal, as soon as possible, of three trees located in the Court parking area. Below is an outline of the main reasons for the requirement that these trees be removed most of which, it should be noted, are in reference to the health and safety of Heather Court residents. The following reasons reflect the ground and basis of this petition, in terms of health, safety, and the residents' general well-being but are by no means exclusive. The reasons are as follows:

- a) The dropping of cones, branches, foliage, and general debris from these trees, which is more or less continuous throughout the year, presents a serious physical hazard. Many residents have slipped or lost their footing due to the continued debris and foliage that these huge trees scatter throughout the year. It can be, and often is, sweep away but the sheer volume and continuous falling of this debris thwarts attempts to keep the paths clear for very long.
- b) Some foliage (e.g. yellow powdery cones) from these trees causes residents to suffer allergic (hay fever) reactions. This pollen like powder, and the flower/pod that carries it, is deposited in vast quantities all over the Court. This is seasonal but debilitating and a quite unnecessary strain on some of our residents.
- c) The continued and aggressive root growth from these trees is breaking up the pathways and kerbs causing a significant hazard to the residents and visitor that use them. Recent efforts by the City Council works department have repaired and improved some of the damage caused but much remains. It is evident the damage will continue to progress just so long as these trees are allowing to remain and grow.
- d) Bird droppings, and in particular pigeon droppings, from the trees are presenting an ever increasing risk to the health of residents. The communal seating in the Court is sometimes unusable because of these droppings and the pathways and surrounding gardens are often badly contaminated
- e) Droppings, foliage, and other debris from these trees causes considerable and unsightly mess in the Court generally. Droppings and some foliage is also a continued problem for residents' vehicles. In addition the huge canopies these trees present in season blocks a considerable amount of sunlight.

These issues have been raised, informally, with various representatives of the City Council as well as the Scheme wardens. It should be noted that many of our residents are very elderly, infirm, disabled, or ill. Their health and general well-being continues to be put at risk by the problems associated with, and hazards presented by, these trees.

We, the residents of Heather Court, consider our health, safety, and general well-being to be of greater importance than the maintenance and conservation of trees which are quite evidently unsuitable for and in their present location. For all of the above reasons we the undersigned, RESIDENTS of HEATHER COURT, MOUNTAIN ASH CLOSE, SOUTHAMPTON therefore formally PETITION for the REMOVAL of the three (3) TREES located in the Heather Court residents and visitors car parking area.

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