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21st July 2014

[REDACTED]  
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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED],

**Re: The Southampton (32a Thorold Road) Tree Preservation Order 2014.**

In response to your recent letters of the 30<sup>th</sup> June and 5<sup>th</sup> July 2014 in which you have objected to the implementation of the above tree preservation order (TPO)

My aim in this letter is to explain the rationale behind the application of the TPO that cover a common Lime in the front garden of the adjoining property.

When The Southampton (Lacon Close/Thorold Road) Tree Preservation Order of 2011 was made, it failed to include the second lime tree in the front garden of 32a Thorold Road. This omission is now being corrected by the making of this TPO

The Lime tree was assessed for health and it's suitability for long term protection by using an industry accepted method of assessment. This method is known as TEMPO (Tree Evaluation Method for Protection Orders) as is an accepted tool in the decision making process. I have included a copy of the TEMPO form that was completed prior to the making of the TPO.

When completing a TEMPO form, I always give a conservative assessment, that way I feel that the final score is a fair assessment of the tree that the general public would be in agreement.

In some parts of the assessment, I could have given a higher grading of the tree, but as mentioned above, I feel that being conservative on the scoring would give the most realistic score that would be agreeable by a majority.

With regards to your comment about the trees amenity and that this is subjective. I am in agreement that amenity can be a very subjective matter and in fact the term 'amenity' has not been clearly defined within the TPO legislation. The Secretary Of State view, 'amenity' can be regarded as follows.

*'TPO's should be used to protect selected trees and woodlands if their removal would have a significant impact on the local environment and its enjoyment by the public'*