

Attn: James Palmer

Dear Mr Palmer,

I'd like to object to the Tree Preservation Order that has recently been provisionally placed on the Birch tree (T1 on the map) adjacent to my property.

As I mentioned in reference to T2-260 let me make it clear that my intention has always been to replace this nuisance tree with another tree of a different species (I'm thinking of an apple, pear or cherry tree).

This particular tree was, I believe, self seeded quite a number of years ago and was not part of the original plan or design envisaged by Herbert Collins when the Ethelbert Avenue Estate was built. It is not particularly visible from the road and, being surrounded by private gardens I do not believe it's replacement with a fruit tree would have "a detrimental impact on the amenity of the area and the enjoyment by the public".

This Birch tree is within a few metres of my kitchen with it's roots actually causing disturbance to my garden ground surface and damaging the fence line and previous fence panels. It's position is approximately to the South West of my property which is the direction from which the prevailing winds come. I am most concerned that this tree is in a position to topple onto my property in a future storm with the high winds suffered a few months ago resulting in a large number of small branches and twigs falling onto my property and garden. Fortunately no damage was done on this occasion.

Quite apart from it's proximity to the actual building there is the issue of the leaves and seeds which seem to almost continually be shed by the Birch tree. These constantly clog the gutters and drains of not only my property but as far as 62 & 60 Bassett Green Road and 4 Field Close (these are some of the neighbours I have spoken with about this issue). The seeds are so fine that for several months a year it is virtually impossible to have windows or doors open to the rear or side of my property without the interior being covered in seeds. This is quite apart from being unable to use the patio area and other outside space for eating or drinking because of the falling seeds. I have taken numerous photographs and have attached a couple to give an idea of the issues faced.

The other issue with the Birch tree is it's height. Even on the longest Summer days my patio area and most of my garden is in shade with this shade going on to cover a large area of the decking at 62 Basset Green Road to the extent that they have created another outdoors seating area to the rear of their garage in order that they may take advantage of the Summer sun!

I firmly believe that the replacement of this nuisance Birch tree with a fruit tree would not only benefit the local wildlife with it's flowers in Spring and harvest of fruit before the Winter months, but would also benefit the local residents with it's attractive blossoms, fruit and of course the ability to have doors and windows open without a massive incursion of leaves and seeds! This would be completely aside from the benefit of restored full use of garden facilities for my neighbours and I.

I have spoken to the other local residents on a couple of occasions as well as

I have canvassed my neighbours regarding the replacement of this tree as I have regarding the Ash under T2-620 and have not encountered any objections, rather there is a feeling that this tree is a nuisance for local residents. I have also spoken with the householder of 3 Field Close in whose garden the Birch tree sits and he is quite happy for the Birch to be replaced with fruit tree. In fact, a couple of local residents are content to share in the cost because of the overall benefit for the immediate area.

As I mentioned in my previous email, I hope you can appreciate that I do not wish to remove 'trees' as such - just this particular nuisance tree! I am more than happy for any planning permission granted to be conditional upon the planting of a replacement (preferably fruit) tree.

I am quite open to having a chat face to face regarding this issue and can make myself available if you wish to visit and inspect the tree in question with it's surrounding area. I am also available should you wish to discuss this or request any additional information by phone on xxxxxxxx.

Apologies that this has turned into a bit of an essay but I wanted to give as much information as possible!

I would be interested in your thoughts and look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Regards