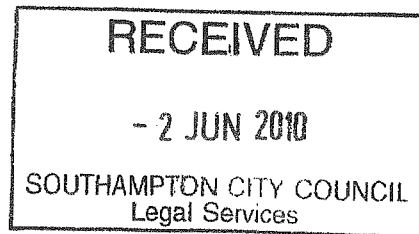


Legal and Democratic Services
Southampton City Council
Southbrook Rise
4-8 Millbrook Road East
Southampton, SO15 1YG



663 Portswood Road
Southampton
SO17 3SQ

31 May 2010

Your Ref. AL/EP07/00/0216

Southampton (659 Portswood Road) Tree Preservation Order (No. 520) 2010

Dear Sir/Madam,

I was dismayed to be told by one of my neighbours that a preservation order had been placed on an ash tree in the back garden of 659 Portswood Road. This tree (which I understand you have denominated "T1") self-seeded several decades ago and I have mentioned to my neighbour on a number of occasions that I would be pleased to see it removed but I suspect it is due to the scale of the operation that nothing has ever been done.

I wish to make a strong objection to the above order for two reasons. Firstly, this tree blocks a great deal of sunlight to my garden and to my bedroom window in the late afternoon which I used to be able to enjoy before it grew so large. I also object due to the number of seedlings it generates: one has to be constantly vigilant in getting rid of them as if they were allowed to mature they could cause a great deal of damage to the fabric of one's property. It is not always easy to alert neighbours to this problem, especially where they don't speak English.

The fifth paragraph of the letter I was shown says the loss of the tree would have a detrimental effect on the area: in my opinion the opposite is the case as I well remember how things were before it grew. You also refer to "enjoyment by the public" but there is no public access to this tree so that remark cannot apply.

I am also surprised and disappointed by your lack of communication. I would be interested to know whether it is the policy of Southampton City Council to go arbitrarily imposing tree preservation orders without canvassing the opinion of other householders resident in the immediate vicinity. I found out by chance that the order had been imposed when the owner of the tree came to ask me whether it was I who had been in touch with the Council. I have received no communication whatsoever despite living only two doors away. If this is the Council's policy it has the potential to set neighbour against neighbour and needs to be urgently reviewed.

I look forward to receiving your response to my remarks and trust I shall now be kept fully informed of future developments concerning this unfortunate situation.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A.R.G. de Groen".

A.R.G. de Groen

c.c. Cllr. E. Osmond
Swaythling Ward Councillor

SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

To: Nick Gruber
Neighbourhoods
Civic Centre

Ref:

From: Aicha Laroussi
Legal Services
Southbrook Rise

Ref: AL/EP07/00/0216

Date: 3rd June 2010

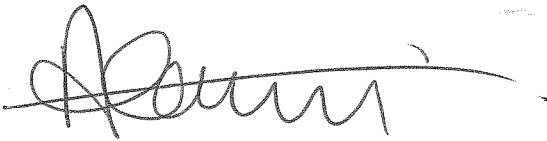
Ext: 7669

Copies:

Subject: Southampton (659 Portswood Road) Tree Preservation Order (No. 520)
2010

Please find attached copy letter of objection in respect of the above.

Regards



Aicha Laroussi