

Neighbourhoods Directorate

Trees Team

Southampton City Council
Ground Floor, Civic Centre
Southampton S014 7NG

Direct dial: 023 8083 4028
Email: trees@southampton.gov.uk
Please ask for: Nik Gruber

Fax: 023 8023 1384
Our ref: T2-520
Minicom: 023 8083 2789

18 October 2010

Mr A R G de Groen
663 Portswood Road
Southampton
SO17 3SQ

Dear Mr de Groen

Re: The Southampton (659 Portswood Road) Tree Preservation Order 2010

Thank you for your letter dated 31 May 2010.

I can confirm this has been received and acknowledged as an objection to the above Tree Preservation Order (TPO).

The Council received a request from a local resident to protect the Ash tree and following my site visit I confirmed the tree was in good health and condition and was a prominent feature in that area of Broadlands Road. An assessment was made for the suitability of protection - Tree Evaluation Method For Preservation Orders (TEMPO) and I have enclosed this for your information. The Council takes tree protection very seriously and looks to retain and make legal protection of amenity trees whenever appropriate.

I understand your main objections relate to the shading and seedlings created by the tree. Although I can appreciate your concerns, this amount of is not considered excessive and is outweighed by the visual amenity value the tree provides to the area. A tree growing on private property can provide enjoyment to the public and local residents even though there is no public access. The way in which trees can visually enhance an area, provide screening, soften and green the built environment, improve air quality, provide shelter and habitat are all things to be considered. I believe these issues are important and I am sure the majority of local residents would prefer to have such benefits in their neighbourhood.

The way in which this TPO was served is standard practice across the UK and not a policy of Southampton City Council. Other than the owner of the tree(s) and immediate adjoining properties it is not a requirement to send copies of the TPO to other residents. However, I will request that our Legal and Democratic Services send you a copy of the TPO for information.

It may prove beneficial if we arrange to meet and discuss these matters further and hopefully come to some agreement on this TPO. If we are unable to reach any agreement the matter can be put to the Councils Planning and Rights of Way Panel for a decision on whether to confirm this TPO or not.

Please contact me to arrange a convenient appointment or let me know in writing how you wish to proceed.

Yours sincerely

Nik Gruber
Senior Tree Officer

If you require this letter or future correspondence from us in a different format (e.g. tape, Braille, or disc) please do not hesitate to let us know.