

663 Portswood Road  
Southampton  
SO17 3SQ

Mr. Nik Gruber  
Senior Tree Officer  
Neighbourhood Directorate, Trees Team  
Southampton City Council  
Ground Floor, Civic Centre,  
Southampton, SO14 7NG

22 June, 2010

Your Ref. T2-520

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

Dear Mr. Gruber,

Thank you for your letter of 15 June.

I must dispute your claim that the relevant tree is "a prominent feature in that part of Broadlands Road". It may provide a visual amenity to casual passers-by who care to look above the roofs of a row of garages built on raised ground some yards away but this should be weighed against the amenity of one who lives two doors away from this tree and now has no prospect of regaining unhindered sunshine to the rear of my property during the summer evenings.

It may be the case that legal provisions only require you to notify the owner of the tree and immediate adjoining properties and not other residents who may be affected but I feel sure that there is no legal requirement that they should *not* be informed. It needs to be borne in mind that these gardens are only 18' 4" wide. If the tree were to come down for any reason, for example due to a lightning strike or in a severe storm, it would most probably come down on my garage. If the tree were to continue to grow at its present rate my premises will soon come under its canopy. How much larger is this tree going to grow? When will the tree simply become too large for its location? I also wonder whether you have notified the owner of 2 Broadlands Road, whose house is closer to the tree than any other. I fully agree that trees can enhance an urban area but careful consideration needs to be given to the suitability of the site in which they grow.

I agree that a meeting between us might prove beneficial and probably illuminating. I shall be in a position to show you photographs taken in the evening and also demonstrate that I am in no way one who advocates the "paving of paradise and the putting up of parking lots".

I shall be away until 28 June and I am also busy on 7 July but other than that I shall be pleased for us to meet whenever it is convenient for you.

Yours sincerely,



A.R.G. de Groen

