

14.09.23

Dear Ms Bide,

N.B. Please note that the tree in question is in the rear garden of 14 Lawton Road.

If this were an application for planning permission for a building, someone could well visit the site to see what was in the application. I would request that someone come out and visit our property to see why we have a problem with this particular tree. Following a read-through of these accompanying documents and perhaps after visiting our house I would ask a very simple question, "Would you like to live within 3 metres of an 18 metre Beech tree?" taking into consideration everything in this submission. I just wonder how many other people have to endure a tree so high, with its incumbent dangers, perceived dangers and mess so near to the house. It is a tree in a most inappropriate position and we ask that you seriously consider this request and give permission for it to be completely cut down.

When the Preservation Order was put on this tree a few years ago, there was thoughtfulness for the health of the tree. But there was no consideration given to the householders who live 3 metres away from it.

Documents in Support of Removal of Tree in Garden of 14 Lawton Road

- 1. Please refer to the attached maps to see the position of the tree in question. There is a copy of Google maps view showing in relation to the garden of number 10. There is also a copy of a Google Earth image showing the houses and the size of the tree canopy (in winter) and its proximity to our house.*

Firstly, I wish to state that is compliant with this application and is happy for me to make it. The tree is not on our premises but affects us so fundamentally that we have offered to contribute to any costs incurred. For years the tree has caused us problems with mess to the front and sides of the house, damage and constant clearing of the gutters and our 4 garden rubbish bins regularly being filled with leaf cases, sticky flowers, beech nut cases and seeds and finally leaves.

We make this application and ask for it to be considered favourably because:

- 2. The tree poses a danger to life, limb and property.**



Three views of the tree a. from our rear garden,



b. our front garden and c. the street showing the height and being within 3 metres is why we feel it to be dangerously near to our property.

I estimate the height of the tree to be between 75 and 80 feet tall. It is a beech tree and is within 3 metres of the side of the house. The prevailing

wind direction is from 10 Lawton Road and directly on to our property. When there are strong winds, especially in summer, when there is a full canopy of leaves, the tree bends and creaks and we feel it is potentially extremely dangerous. Beech trees are botanically known for dropping branches of various sizes even when the weather is calm but when it is windy quite large branches have fallen. Thus, when it is windy, it is frightening to see the movement and we feel very nervous. On many occasions very large branches have fallen during strong winds and on a couple of occasions large branches which could have injured one of us have fallen while we have been working outside.

- We have a 2 ½ year old grandson who we baby-sit several times a week and we have to keep him well away in case a branch should fall on him. Some of the larger ones to have fallen over the years would definitely have hospitalised him and could easily have killed him. We shouldn't feel unsafe on our own property.
- We cannot keep our cars on our own drive anywhere near the house as both of them have been damaged by twigs, branches and beech nuts falling onto them. We are therefore forced, for convenience, to permanently leave one of the cars outside on the street which is ridiculous when we have a long drive.
- Beech trees from as early as late February drop millions of tiny leaf cases which not only make a terrible mess on the drive but get into our gutters, blocking them and causing them to overflow. This is very quickly followed by the sticky, fluffy flowers which similarly get into the gutters. Both the leaf casings and the flowers form a daily mat on the drive and even though I clear most of them a considerable number are trodden into the house. Then, as already stated, twigs and branches fall at any time but especially after strong winds, until in late August the beech nuts and cases fall, some from high up in the tree and fall with such force that they make a noise on the shed and extension roofs, damage any cars that we happen to have left there and also can be painful when one falls on people, especially our 2 +1/2 -year-old grandson.

Photo showing the number of beech nuts a cases that fell between 15.00 on Sunday July 30th when I cleared the drive and 08.00 on Monday July 31st. This happens every day. The gutters are full.

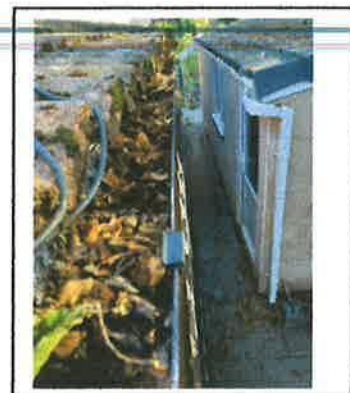


- The photo shows the carpet of nuts / cases that fell in one night this year. It is not possible to show photos of the thick carpet of leaves that will be there each day, usually starting overnight from the end of August until, generally the middle of November. The photo shows, all 4 of the garden rubbish bins, which we fill EVERY single time during the collecting season. During this time when the leaves are falling, our bins are full of nothing other than leaves. ALL the filling is from this tree which, I reiterate, is not on our property. It prevents us from doing our own garden work cutting back and tidying up for the winter until November and using them for ourselves for the final collection of the year. Not only is it a considerable amount of work for us it isn't fair.

3. On-Going Damage to Our Property

- As a result of the constant tree deposits i.e. large branches at any time, leaf cases, flowers, beech nut cases, beech nuts and finally leaves which all, fall onto our property because of the prevailing wind I have to clear the gutters up to 10 times a year and even then, it doesn't prevent them blocking and overflowing.

This year has been much worse as the nuts and cases have been falling from the end of June rather than their usual end of August. The gutters have got full and over the years have started to damage the house, the water overflowing down the wall (despite clearing the gutters every couple of weeks). The moss that gathers because of the shade has also damaged the roofs.



The photos on the previous page are of the leaves, beech nuts and beech nut cases that gathered in the gutter to our extension, directly below the tree in question. during one week in early August. The wall shows green where the water has overflowed from the gutter down the side of the house.

There was a lot of rain during the time but the extension seemed O.K when we went. When we returned and went into the extension room, we couldn't believe the damage the water has done to our ceiling, our wall and our fabric. See below:



Mould damage to the walls and skirting board. We cannot use the room until we are sure that it is safe from mould spores, which means we cannot take our grandson in there and that is where he plays.



Mould damage to cushions rendering them useless.

- Over the years, when water has overflowed the gutter it has overflowed down the walls ultimately causing this internal mould. But at the same time it has overflowed into the roof space and rotted the roof lining. As a result the roof needs replacing as does the ceiling in the extension, plus the roof of the outhouse which is directly under this tree.
- The work is to go ahead some time in October and will cost at least £4,500 but could cost up to £520 depending on the state of the flashings etc. (Please see enclosed estimate from LRS Repairs and Maintenance.)

4. **Mess and Health Hazard**

I have written at some length about the mess from the tree itself. But there used to be many more trees in a line between the houses in Lawton Road. Over the years several of them have been taken down leaving only three. Previously other trees in the row were roosting places and havens for pigeons /collared doves. As most of the other trees have disappeared the birds now spend their time in this tree. As they fly off, they all fly over our property and as you may, or may not know, birds defecate as they leave the perch. This lands on our drive right in front of the gate from the back garden. It causes a terrible mess throughout winter especially. It is glutinous and very hard to remove and it is another reason why we cannot park our cars in our own

drive near the house. This is an all-year-round issue but is particularly bad in winter and spring when the tree is bare. On a daily basis, again, there is a thick covering of bird this glutinous pigeon excrement covering an area of at least 25 square metres, It isn't always possible to clear it every day and after a couple of days it is a disgusting, thick and slippery mess. If it goes hard, it is very, very hard to remove even with a pressure washer.

But, regarding us and our 2-year-old grandchild, it constitutes a significant health hazard, especially as birds are known to carry disease and we do not believe that we should be subjected to it.



Pictures show the bird excrement which landed on our path on the morning of Saturday September 9th 2023. It is like this, or worse, every morning and is at the gateway leading from the back to the front of the house and cannot be by-passed. It is unpleasant and potentially carries disease.

Surely, at some point, this must constitute an infestation of vermin and the Council should act upon it.

Several years ago, we applied for, and were granted, permission to trim the branches overhanging our property. It cost nearly £1,000 and it hardly made any difference at all. Since then, this tree has grown upwards and outwards dramatically and action is required. A tree likely to grow to this size should never be situated like this, so near to houses, in our case, within 3 metres.

We are not against trees per se but request permission to take this tree down as soon as possible please. It would look lovely in Stadt Moers, Sefton, Calderstones Parks or any park, or in the countryside, but is not appropriate here by our house.

We have some concern that this year it might even be diseased due to the extreme, abnormal earliness of it dropping its nuts and cases. Similar trees roundabout have lost nothing yet.

5. Precedent Set Last Year

Last year the council allowed two other trees with protected status, to be removed, in the area between numbers 28 and 46. Reasons cited by the applicants were on the grounds of Health and Safety, which we also cite here for all the reasons listed above.

We hope that you will consider this application seriously and with sensitivity to our plight. There is absolutely no doubt that this tree is so close to our house as to be potentially extremely dangerous and even deadly. As stated, it is a Health and Safety hazard. And over the years it has increasingly caused more and more damage to our property.

Regards.