

Application for tree works at 29 High Street Barwell

Question 7. Identification of Tree

This application is to seek permission to fell the tree shown and properly identified as T1 on the plan attached to the TPO.

The subject tree is stated to be a “beech” (*Fagus Sylvatica*), which is commonly known as a common or European beech. It is a tree known for its broad canopy and to be found in forest ecosystems. Its root system typically extends well beyond the canopy, ie, 2 to 4 times beyond such. The subject tree measures a circumference of 9’6” and we submit that it is better suited to a rural rather than urban area.

The stated purpose of the TPO (as stated on the notice dated 24.3.1994) was that the tree “is endangered by development”. The “development” contemplated was not set out and in any event there is unlikely to be any development, plus the tree is contained within a conservation area. However, just prior to the TPO being placed on the tree we were sent notice by the Council to attend to the garden wall bordering the drive at the base of the tree which was leaning dangerously towards the pavement. We duly paid for the wall to be taken down and replaced with a fence and concrete fencing slabs and posts.

The tree has an overbearing aspect for an urban area, providing no amenity or enjoyment by the public. On the contrary, it presents a health and safety hazard, particularly in the autumn and winter, due to wet fallen leaves, with an inherent danger to pedestrians, pigeon droppings (all year round), blockage of drains, as well as insidious root damage to the pavement and road. The roots have also caused damage to our own property, lifting paving slabs (now a trip hazard), pushing the concrete fencing slabs and posts out of alignment, splitting the foundational railway sleepers of the summerhouse, and so on.

The tree is having a detrimental effect on our mental health. It is a source of anxiety and stress to both of us in terms of its size and the amount of maintenance involved clearing up the leaf casings, blossom, beech nuts and leaves. We are both elderly and in particular my husband (aged 80 this year) suffers with prostate cancer and a bad back and we now have to employ someone to do all the work involved. We are also extremely anxious when there are high winds as there have been multiple twigs and small branches blown off the tree and the proximity to the house is of major concern. We cannot continue with the present situation.

We would ask the Council to consider the public visibility, size and form, the relationship with the landscape/environment, and the lack of amenity value regarding the tree and particularly its inherent overbearing nature, public nuisance and indeed health and safety hazard, etc., when coming to a decision regarding the felling of the tree.