

Appendix 5

Mr and Mrs McDonnell

55 Thirlmere Road

Lancaster

LA1 3LL

25th August 2017

Lancaster City Council
Development Management
PO Box 4
Town Hall
Lancaster
LA1 1QR

To whom it may concern,

I am submitting this letter to express both me and my wife's objections towards the Tree Preservation Order 622(2017) or Order 621(2017), which is also quoted in the letter. Both applied by 57, Thirlmere Road, Lancaster, LA1 3LL.

Recently (over the last couple of months) our neighbours at 57, Thirlmere Road have installed a new perimeter fence between the boundaries of theirs and our garden. They have also done some extensive landscaping to their garden. During this time, the occupiers were chopping at and cutting roots/branch off the tree to put on their path throughout the garden. Hence, it was to our surprise that we have received this letter detailing that the tree is to be placed under a tree preservation order.

The tree stump is approximately 9 yards from our house and part of the tree stump is based on our property. Whilst, our neighbours installed the new fence they had to adapt it to fit around the tree as they could not erect it properly because of the size and location. The branches from this tree are within 1 yard from our house wall and overhangs over the joint fence approximately 6 yards. This causes us great concern as to if this branch became unstable, then we would not like to imagine the potential damage that it could cause to our property, but to as well as the residents. Another concern is the safety of my grandchildren who regularly come around to the house and use the back garden (grandchildren currently 4 1/2 years and 1-year old) as well as our pet dog.

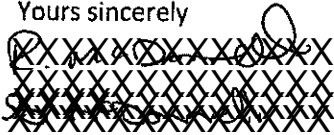
I have enclosed pictures of the damage the tree (mainly the roots) has caused to our garden. It has lifted the flagging by 3 inches and has caused many of the flag stones to crack. We have also enclosed pictures of the view (lack of) from both our bathroom window and from also our back-bedroom window. Whilst looking onto our neighbour's property there is no visible damage caused to their garden (pictures enclosed). It would be pertinent for you to visit our property to visually see the damage the tree roots have caused and lack of to our neighbour's garden.

Reading further down your letter we noticed that that tree had been assessed using the Tree Evaluation Method for Preservation Orders (TEMPO) scoring a 11, which is said to support the protection of the tree under a preservation order. However, after researching the TEMPO we discovered that trees that score between 7-11 are said to not merit a tree preservation order according to their guidelines. There appears to be an inconsistency regarding this.

I would be grateful if you could take the time to visit our property to properly assess the appropriateness of the preservation order as the worry as seen in the pictures, as the tree roots could cause subsidence issues to our property if not dealt with.

We have been looking for a new shed over the past few years, but haven't been able to purchase one due to not being able to alter place it in our garden where we would like to due to the roots and branches form the tree. Also, renovation of our garden has been extremely difficult (almost impossible) due to the roots lifting the ground.

Yours sincerely



Richard and Susan McDonnell

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