



Ref Specification of works, reasons for works based on arboricultural advice from Neil Wilson

Specification

T.1 Lime

Fell

Reasons

The tree's location is causing numerous problems. There are justified concerns that if parts of the tree fail they could have extremely serious consequences for life and property.

A more detailed explanation is listed below.

1. The tree is located directly outside of the rear door of the property and adj. to the boundary fence, see location plan and photo 1. This location of tree is causing conflicts with the owners and their property.
2. In the last 8mths the tree has dropped 2 sizeable branches, see photo 2. Videos of these events can be viewed by following the links provided

7 March 2021, A day before the falling branch

<https://video.nest.com/clip/b0689516290c4a08ac52359dbfbfcb.mp4>

8 March 2021, Falling branch

<https://video.nest.com/clip/172e4f0da35d4ed2ac0139e7493e5c6f.mp4>

4 October 2020, Falling branch

<https://video.nest.com/clip/fe7365f672934a2f880171e4498909d4.mp4>

The first clip shows the Szmolka's young son using the garden to ride his bike and helpfully sweeping off the decking.

The second clip is the day after and shows a sizeable branch striking the decking in the same area the young boy was playing the day before.

This clearly demonstrates why retaining the tree is not sensible.

3. The tree dominates its surroundings and whilst the Szmolka's enjoy the positive aspects of the tree, they have reasonable concerns about the trees potential to cause harm. The location of the tree, means it is exposed to significant wind stresses which I believe have led to the branch failures.
4. Limes are notorious for producing profuse amounts of deadwood. All the deadwood can be removed from a Limes canopy and 6mths later deadwood can be clearly seen.
5. The option of pruning has been carried out in 2020 as per the previous TPO permission. Unfortunately pruning the tree has not necessarily significantly reduce the risk of limb failure, due to the exposed location of the tree.



6. Further pruning is required to reduce the risk of failure. Significant pruning would be required such as pollarding but this will leave large wounds that will inevitably lead to decay pockets, severely detract from the visual amenity of the tree and mean the owners incur regular ongoing expense to safely maintain the tree.
7. The tree drops leaf litter etc. into gutters etc. and Honey dew onto the decking. All these by products of the tree's location cause expense and inconvenience to the owners.
8. The felling will allow more light into the garden/property.
9. The local area has plenty of tree cover and therefore any loss of visual amenity will be minimal, added to which the owner is happy to replant a new Lime tree which will provide visual amenity as it grows and develops.
10. The felling will have a huge positive long-term impact upon the lives of residents.
11. It is accepted within the Arboricultural field that trees have the potential to fail structurally, without prior manifestation of any reasonably observable symptoms and their physiological and structural condition can change rapidly in response to a wide range of biotic/abiotic factors. Given that the target area should the tree or a portion of it fail is heavily used every day all year round and that if the Szmolka's want to go into their back garden they have to enter the target area of the tree and are therefore in serious danger to the Szmolka's.
12. The tree was retained in a location that was always going to cause future conflict, has grown significantly since the TPO was placed on it and is now too large for its location, I don't not see it as unreasonable for the home owners to request fell the tree.
13. The constant worry, stress and anxiety every time there are high winds is affecting the family by causing stress and concerns as well as financial costs.

Summary

We must accept trees in urban locations do sometimes have to be removed rectify issues they are causing.

This tree totally dominates the small rear garden and the owners have tried to live with it but find problems and worry of failure to great, when weighed up against the positive aspects of the tree.

It is clear that retention in its current location is not sustainable.

The videos of the recent branch failures demonstrate how easily the Szmolka's young son could have been seriously hurt.

The exposed nature of the location and the size of the tree mean it is likely to suffer the full force of bad weather in the future and it is highly likely failure will occur again in some form and pruning cannot eliminate this risk. This is the nature of mature trees but the target area being so significant means any failure has a high probability of causing significant harm. Therefore the retention of the tree is unsustainable.

The proposed felling will make significant difference to the owners safe use and enjoyment of their property and will give them the peace of mind they deserve. This will far out way the any loss of visual amenity.