EASTLEIGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Appeal Statement.

6 Pardoe Close
Hedge End SO30 0NE

25th January 2012.

I received the application (T/11/69618) to fell the Oak tree to the rear of 6 Pardoe Close and duly made a site visit to look at the issues surrounding this application.

Whilst on site, I made a cursory visual tree assessment (VTA) to identify any significant defects present at the time of my visit.

I found the tree to be in good health and with no obvious problems, this has also been substantiated in the applications supporting letter from Mr. Logan Madden, dated 15th August 2011

The tree can clearly be seen from Pardoe Close and with varying degrees from Richlans Road, Smith Grove and Nursery Grove, I therefore agree with the statement from Mr. Madden, when he states that the tree has a high amenity value.

The Oak is a mature species and a prominent feature in the area, and I do not feel that the tree should be removed for pigeon faeces. I do not accept that this is a valid reason to allow a tree to be removed and if I had granted the removal of this tree for bird faeces, it is likely to set a precedent and it would therefore be hard to refuse future applications, when the applicant states bird faeces for a reason to fell.

The letter from Mr. Madden reports that there has been root pruning in the past to clear Oak roots from the drains around the property. According to reports found in the government publication 'Tree Roots in the Built Environment'* it states that '*tree roots do not go on a search and destroy mission against sewers or stormwater pipes' (Moore 1995), but they follow water gradients in the soil. If these lead to a leaking pipe then roots will tend to grow along lines of least resistance such as likely to be found around cracked, poorly installed or leaking pipework*' This damage has been referenced in the letter from Mr. Madden and also been indicated to me in Section 8 (2) of the application submitted. There has not been any '*written technical evidence from an appropriate expert, including description of damage and possible solutions*' provide to support the application.

Mr. Madden has also raised concerns over the trees proximity to the property, stating that it is 2 to 3m from the dwelling. I would wish to point out that the area of the dwelling closest to the tree is a conservatory, which is a later addition to the main dwelling. The original section of the property is approximately 3 to 4m further back.

I have looked at the geology in the area and have found that 6 Pardoe Close is just within the area marked as Whitecliff Sand Member – Sand, but does border with an area of London Clay Formation – Clay, Silt & Sand**

If the applicant is experiencing problems associated with subsidence, I would urge them to contact their insurers to instigate further investigations. Without any supporting documentation, I would not accept the felling of a tree on the grounds that it may cause issues in the future.

As the applicant has ticked the yes box in Section 8, parts 1&2, of the application, they have indicated to me that they feel that the tree is in some way dangerous, and that it is causing damage to the property or drains. As no further supporting documentation has been provided to support this application, I have nothing further to base my decision on.

If the applicant does have concerns over the safety of the tree, it would be my recommendation that the tree owner have the tree inspected on a cyclical basis to ensure the safety of the tree.

I also feel it important to state that there have been 5 letters of objection sent to Eastleigh Borough Council from neighbouring properties and no letters of support for the removal of the tree.

In conclusion, I have not been presented with any arboricultural reasons as to why this tree should be removed and therefore continue to believe that the tree should remain.

Gary Claydon-Bone
Tree Officer
Eastleigh Borough Council

* Department for communities and local government – Tree Roots in the Built Environment. John Roberts, Nick Jackson & Mark Smith. Research for amenity trees No. 8

** (www.maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html)