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Our Ref:MH/Kingsway75/Cond/7435

21st October 2024

Mr Alex Mirnezami
75 Chandlers Ford
Eastleigh
SO53 1FH

Dear Mr Mirnezami

ASH TREE AT 75 KINGSWAY, CHANDLERS FORD, EASTLEIGH, SO53 1FH

Brief: The ash tree on the rear boundary of 75 Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh, SO53 1FH has recently shed some significant limbs. Inspect the tree, consider its condition and make management recommendations if considered necessary.

Date of inspection: 16.10.24.

Inspected by: Mark Hinsley MSc Res Man (Arb). OND(Arb). F.Arbor.A.

Also present: Mr Alex Mirnezami

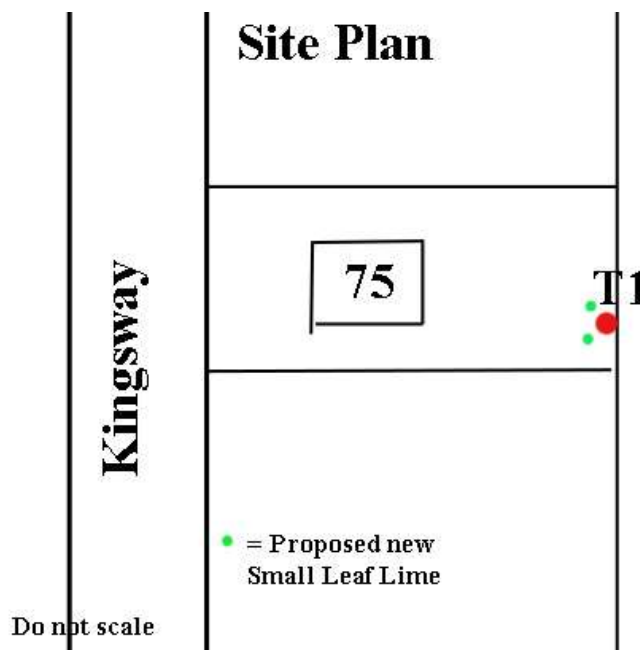
Method: Ground level visual. Desktop

Findings: The mature ash tree on the rear boundary of 75 Kingsway is the subject of a Tree Preservation Order (TPO).

The tree was the subject of a formal consent to crown lift Ref: T/19/86483/ in 2019.

There appear to be no other applications relating to this tree on the Eastleigh Council website.

The ash tree (T1) is standing close to the rear boundary of 75 Kingsway (Photo 1) below





There is a significant amount of dieback in the outer canopy (Photo 2).



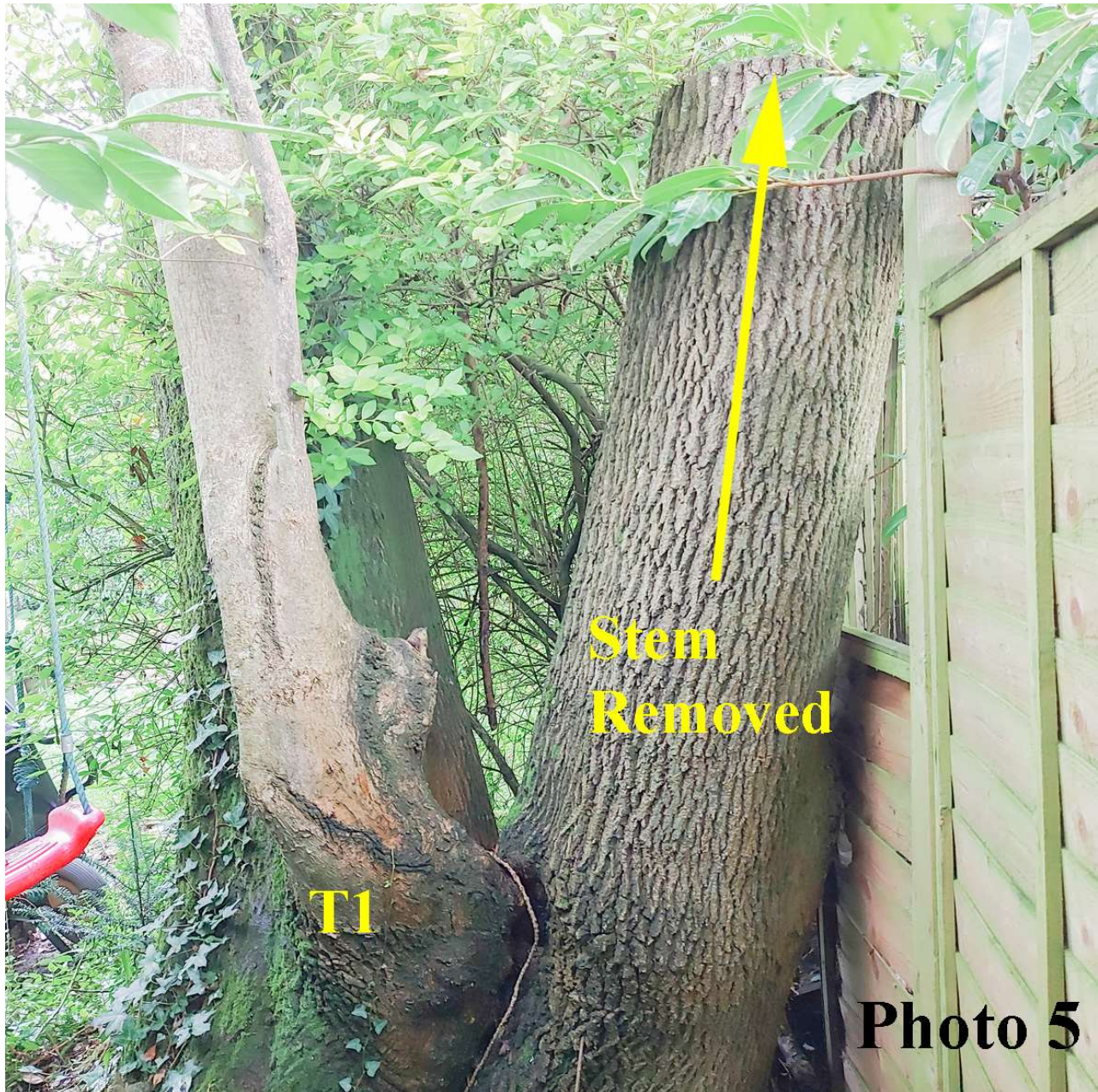
The thinning of the canopy and leaves turning dark brown and falling early (Photo 3) are classic symptoms of Ash Dieback. It can also be seen that the tip die-back has stimulated the production of some epicormic growth in the lower crown.

Whilst the presence of Ash Dieback may be serious for the tree in the longer term, it has not reached the point of deterioration that would indicate that it should be felled under Forestry Commission or DEFRA guidance. Neither does the presence of Ash Dieback explain the recent limb failures.

Historically T1 had a large stem which overhung the garden of the property to the rear. There appears to be some mention of it in representations attached to the 2019 application, although no mention of it in the application itself, the Case Officers report, or the Decision Notice.

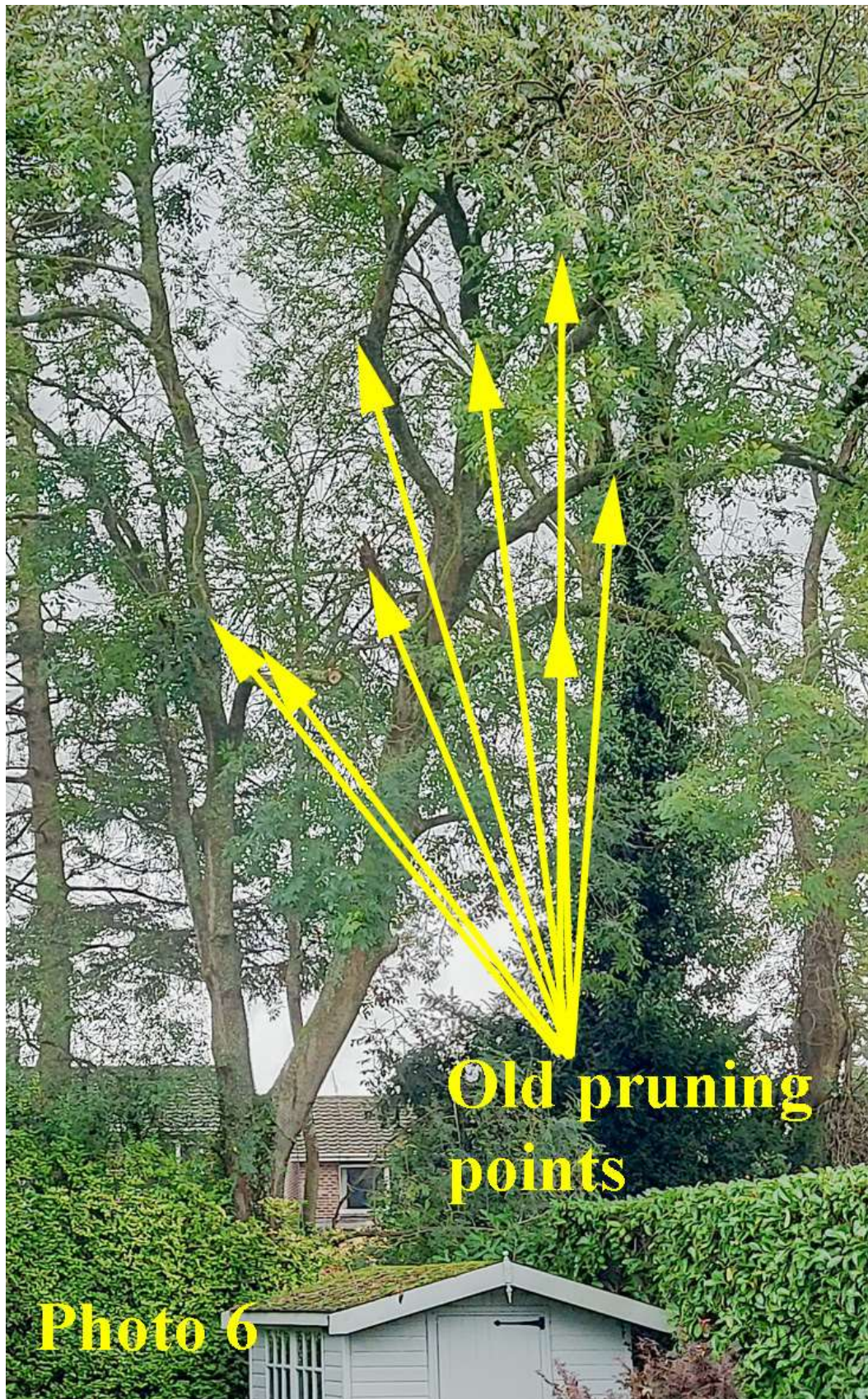


Part of this historic back stem still exists on site (Photo 5), although it appears to us that it was removed before 2019.



The removal of this back stem with no apparent formal consent on record suggests it may have occurred before the TPO was put on.

Close inspection of the canopy of T1 revealed no indications of the presence of *Innanotus hispidus*, which would have readily explained the branch failures. However, a careful look revealed some anomalies which may relate to some very poor, pre TPO pruning. Throughout the canopy of the ash are a series of ‘knees’ that represent the kind of branch direction change that would be consistent with new growth stimulated by heavy branch removal (Photo 6 below).



These old pruning points are exactly where one would expect to find them if the tree had been, sometime in its past, brutally pruned by an unqualified and uncaring operative. Possibly working off a ladder.

One of these old pruning points is precisely where the most recent large limb which fell into the garden of No 75 had been attached.

We suspect that this butchering of the ash must have taken place before the making of the TPO. Certainly, if such a proposal was put before any of the Arboriculturists that we have known that worked for Eastleigh Borough Council it would have been refused on the grounds of the harm such pruning does to the long-term structural integrity of the tree.

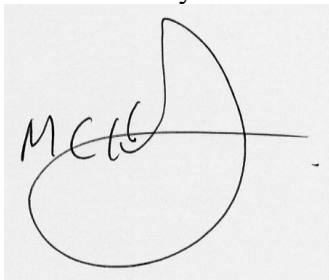
The problem caused by such dreadful pruning is now coming to fruition. Once one or two of the regrowth branches have failed at the old pruning points it is unreasonable to think that more of them will not. The owner of a tree is required to take all reasonable precaution to prevent an accident or loss to third party's resultant of his tree. Given the warnings that failing branches have given, and the reason identified for said failure, it seems to us that a prudent citizen has no reasonable course of action to pursue other than to apply to the Local Planning Authority for consent to fell the tree.

Upon the removal of T1 the intention is to replant with two *Tilia cordata* (Small Leaf Limes). Small Leaf Lime is a good boundary screening garden tree as it does not have a wide spreading canopy at maturity. It is also recognised as a suitable replacement for ash as it will support some of the same species of wildlife.

Recommendation: Apply to Eastleigh Borough Council for consent to fell the ash T1 on the grounds that historic poor pruning has rendered the tree structurally unreliable and therefore unreasonable to retain. Replace it with two Small Leaf Limes. Planting stock to be half standards.

If you require any further information at this stage, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely



Mark Hinsley