

Support for Application Reference 6/2022/2353/EMT

Proposal: Reduce crown of 1 x Oak by up to 3m overall.

The oak tree in question is located close to the boundary with our property whereby branches overhang our garden and could potentially collide with our house or summerhouse were it to fall.

Since 2008, there have been two occurrences, following high winds, of very large branches becoming dangerously detached or partially detached from the main trunk of this tree requiring emergency tree surgery. The most recent time being on 5 October 2022. Fortunately, on both occasions the branches have remained in the canopy and not crashed to the ground.

To his credit, our neighbour has always acted promptly when he has been alerted to any danger regarding the tree. However, we do get anxious whenever stormy weather sets in, especially since the nearby incident of the two fallen oaks in Sherrardspark Road earlier this year which caused significant damage to neighbouring properties.

The canopy of the oak tree presently contains several substantial branches in terms of width and length that overhang our garden. While these are a cause for concern, it would also be reassuring to find out how healthy the tree is in its entirety.

My husband and I therefore support this preventative measure to reduce the crown by 3m. We agree to provide the necessary access to our garden in order for the appointed tree surgeon to carry out this work. However we do require the tree surgeon to make good any damage to our garden and/or property as a consequence of this work.

In addition to the proposed measure, we believe it would be in our neighbour's best interests and would provide peace of mind to everyone living in the vicinity of this tree, if our neighbour commissioned a tree report from a tree specialist to determine the health of the oak tree, and get professional advice regarding its future maintenance. Although the tree in question looks healthy enough to the untrained eye, so did the oaks in Sherrardspark Road prior to falling.