

# Woodbury Salterton Residents Association

## Response on Planning Application 13/2499/TRE

To Pollard an Oak tree above 5 meters behind 65 Sages Lea Woodbury  
Salterton

The committee of the Woodbury Salterton Residents Association has requested that as secretary of the Association I write to you regarding the above proposal.

### DELEGATED REPORT

#### Considerations

The main considerations relate to visual impact, impact on the trees and flooding.

#### Visual impact

In terms of visual impact the ditch is not considered to harm the appearance of the site or surrounding area given that it would just be read as a raised area of ground within an agricultural field. No objections are raised in this regard.

#### Trees

It was discovered on site that none of the tree protection measures that have been recommended with an arboricultural report have been adhered to within application 10/0570/MFUL.

Soil deposits were within the root protection areas of these trees and that protective fencing to these trees was not in the correct location. The ground had also been heavily compacted by construction traffic.

As such the trees officer has made several visits to the site to ensure that soil which had been deposited within the root protection area of the trees

It is considered that the damage has now been done and it is now important that further damage is prevented and the amelioration to limit the affect of the damage is undertaken. The following course of action is being followed:

- o Materials stored within the root protection area of T2 is removed by 8 March 2013
- o Tree protection fencing in accordance with BS5837: 2012 is put in place by 15 March 2013
- o A plan for the amelioration of both trees is drawn up by a suitably qualified and experienced Arboriculturalist and submitted to us for approval by 29 March 2013.
- o The agreed amelioration measures are completed within 30 days of our approval of the amelioration measures.
- o Tree protection measures to remain in the locations until works are completed.

The applicants have now employed a trees consultant to draw up the amelioration measures.

It is considered that whilst there are concerns in respect of the TPO trees these are now in the process of being dealt with and in respect of this application can be dealt separately. No objections are therefore raised.

The report above is taken from a report conducted by an EDCC official early this year regarding to building of a drainage ditch by the developers working on the extension to Sages Lea.

This report clearly shows that the correct measures were not put in place to safeguard these protected and ancient trees.

It is also clear that the officer was under the impression that matters were in hand to deal with the damage. However 9 months later after no remedial work on the tree has been carried out and a complete growing season gone, the owner of the property closest to this tree (Cornerstone Housing) have called in another Tree Surgeon company to safeguard the safety of their tenant and property.

Tree No.	Species	Preliminary management recommendations & comments
T1	English Oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> )	• Crown clean
T2	English Oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> )	• Reduce crown by ~40% to reduce forces on base of tree • Crown clean
H1	Field Maple ( <i>Acer campestre</i> ) Hawthorn ( <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> ) Ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> )	• Continue to manage by tractor flail or mechanical hedgecutter
H2	Field Maple ( <i>Acer campestre</i> ) Hawthorn ( <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> ) Hazel ( <i>Corylus avellana</i> )	• Continue to manage by tractor flail or mechanical hedgecutter

In March of this year the Tree surgeon report to EDDC (above) recommended a reduction in the crown by 40%



There seems to be therefore 2 recommendations as to what is required to save the tree. It is understood from Woodbury Parish Council that the final decision on the amount of remedial work is required will be decided by the senior tree officer at EDDC.

The Association therefore would prefer to allow the decision on the work required to be decided by the tree officer, in the hope that the tree can be saved with the minimum of cutting back.

The Association would also like to see whether action can be taken against the contractors and /or the developers in their failure in providing adequate protection for the protected tree.