

20250371

To Faye Walsh - Planning Department,

I wish to formally object to the proposed works relating to protected trees covered by the current Tree Preservation Order (TPO).

The application concerns T7, a Copper Beech tree, which is positioned only marginally close to overhead utility cables. It should be noted that the majority of T7 is nowhere near the cables; only a small section at the front of the canopy comes close. The tree is healthy, structurally sound, and does not interfere with the cables at present. Any future growth issues can easily be managed through routine, minimal maintenance, not major works.

Regarding T9 to T15, a group of Lime (*Tilia*) trees, these trees are straight, healthy, and stable. They are not obstructing any neighbouring properties, public footpaths, highways, or causing any health and safety concerns. No credible arboricultural evidence has been provided to suggest otherwise. The submitted document's from the applicant In particular Crown Tree Care are not accurate and reflective of these trees and I would urge you to check and I can submit photos to show the contrary .

It is of serious concern that one of the protected trees has already been subjected to aggressive, unauthorised cutting back without the required permission. This action is a direct breach of the Tree Preservation Order and contravenes Section 210 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, which states that unauthorised works to protected trees are a criminal offence and may result in prosecution or financial penalties. I respectfully request that the Council urgently clarifies what enforcement action it intends to take in response to this unauthorised work, particularly given that the affected tree was previously healthy and safe and the applicant would have known these had a TPO.

TPO legislation requires that works are only permitted where there is clear and compelling evidence of necessity, such as an imminent danger to public safety or irreversible decline in tree health. No such evidence has been presented in this case.

Permitting the proposed works would undermine the legal protection afforded to these trees and risk setting an unacceptable precedent for the treatment of TPO-protected trees within the borough.

For all these reasons, I respectfully request that this application be refused, and that the Council fully upholds the statutory protection of these trees, in line with the law.

I also request that the Council arranges a formal site inspection by a qualified Tree Officer before making any decision on this application, to independently assess the condition, health, and safety of the trees concerned.

