

Planning application number: PP-12976182

36 Churchside
Vigo
DA13 0SJ

Case study on Silver birch.

We applied for planning last year and asked for 1 x silver birch to be removed due to problems with excessive bird faeces, issues with blocking sunlight, low branches hitting vehicle and small branches falling into the garden. The tree is located at the end of the garden on our land but behind our fence. We have an in ground trampoline that is used by 2 children so the risks of falling branches is high anyway but we was refused permission to remove it. We was allowed to have the tree reduced by 20%, this was done on the 23/06/2023 at our cost.

The problem has continued and we now have wood pigeon problems, they are very large birds and they create a large amount faeces, this can be seen in the pictures below. This is a daily occurrence for us, I have to clean the path, my van, gate etc to prevent my kids walking in it or us walking it into our home. Bird faeces contains a multitude of dangerous diseases not limited to; Histoplasmosis, Candidiasis, cryptococcosis, psittacosis, St. louis encephalitis, e coli, salmonellosis and more including parasites.

These diseases spread by waste and can become airborne just by being in the same vicinity so having to clean this multiple times a week, having the bin men touch the bins that are covered and having my children play in the area is unacceptable. It is the main access to our garden and our home, as like most properties in Vigo our rear garden is the main access to our home, this is also where our drive is located as can be seen in the photos.

We have a huge wooded area the other side of our road, we look onto 100s of trees, we could easily re plant a tree to replace this silver birch, the silver birch also have an average life span of 60 – 90 years, this tree is approximately 65-70 years old. With the risk of rot and old tree limbs and its location above a childrens trampoline would it not be better to remove the tree and replant in a safer location.

Both my neighbours would also like to see the tree removed due to small falling branches, bird mess on their properties etc.

We do hope that there will be some real consideration to this issue, we do not hate nature and we do not detest birds but we do draw the line at having to walk through their faeces every day. We have a bird feed at the front of our property and plenty of trees out there too. This is the only remaining tree on the residential side of the road with the other 2 trees falling in storms in the past. The falling tree caused damaged to a vehicle. Again this makes a good case for it being removed and a new 1 planted on the other side of the road.

We have looked into deterrents, but we don't have many options, netting the tree will risk other animals being injured, birds getting caught etc. the oils cant be applied to protected trees, fake birds simply don't work and hanging plastics break down and cause other environmental problems including microplastics and animals eating them. We don't see an alterative unless you can advise one that is proven to work. We would also highlight we have already paid at our

own cost to reduce the tree without success and we don't have an unlimited pot of money to keep attempting new things.

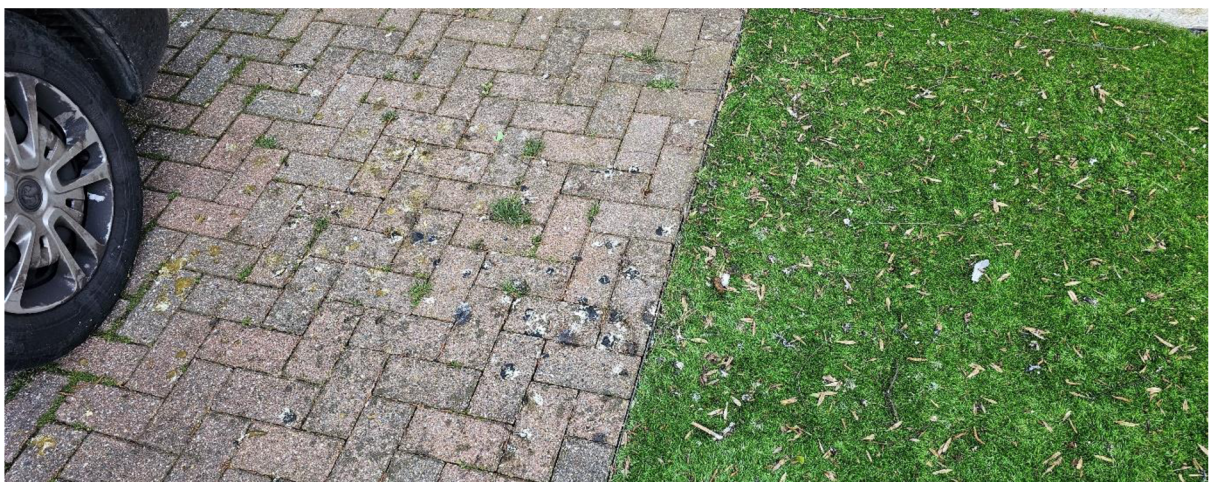
Please see photos;

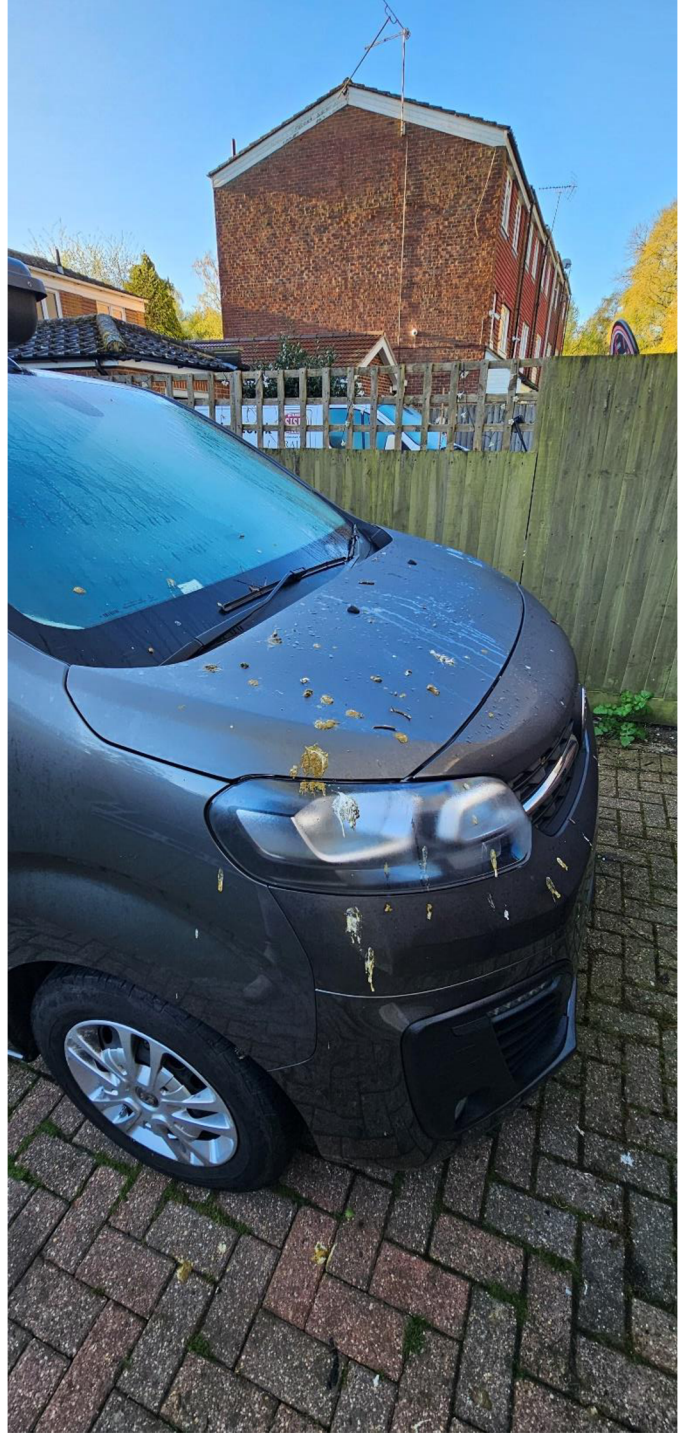
Current garden layout, entrance gate can be seen, and drive to left of grass. Bins are located other side of gate on edge of grass.



The below few pages show just a couple of typical days and this is caused only in a few days as explained above due to us cleaning them down continuously







Below picture shows our tree on the right and the abundance of space on the left with an area of 100s of trees. This space is not residential and can have plenty more trees planted.



Can be seen on trampoline in multiple places, our children play here. As much as we can clean it we can not get into the groves of the trampoline so the children are touching it when playing.