LC Tree Care Ltd.

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Dear Tree Officer

Re: Tree Preservation Order Application – Supporting Statement

Site Address: 8 Broadlands, N6 4An

1. Site Description

The application concerns two mature common beech trees situated along the front boundary of a residential property, immediately adjacent to the entrance gates, paved driveway and public highway.

The trees occupy a prominent position and are within potential falling distance of areas used by pedestrians, vehicles, residents and visitors.

2. Observed Fungal Activity

Photographic evidence supplied in support of this application shows substantial clusters of overlapping bracket-like fungal fruiting bodies at the base of T1 and within the immediate rooting area between T1 and T2.

The morphology and location of these fruiting bodies are consistent with Meripilus giganteus (giant polypore), a fungus associated with decay of the structural roots of mature beech trees.

The identification remains provisional pending appropriate confirmation.

The presence of these fruiting bodies raises legitimate concerns regarding possible decay within the below-ground structural root system and the potential implications for tree anchorage.

The precise extent of decay and the residual structural integrity of either tree have not been established by the photographs alone.

3. Risk Considerations

The roadside and entrance locations are significant when considering the consequences of potential structural failure.

Relevant targets include:

* The adjacent public highway and passing vehicles.
* Pedestrians using the roadside and property entrance.
* Residents and visitors using the driveway.
* Entrance gates, boundary structures and neighbouring property.

If significant decay has developed within load-bearing roots, this could reduce anchorage and increase susceptibility to windthrow or root-plate failure.

The condition of each tree should therefore be assessed individually, taking account of both the observed fungal activity and the frequency of occupation of the surrounding areas.

4. Proposed Works and Justification

T1 — Left-hand beech: Fell by controlled sectional dismantling to ground level.

T2 — Right-hand beech: Fell by controlled sectional dismantling to ground level.

Consent is requested for the removal of both trees due to concerns regarding suspected fungal-associated root decay and their proximity to the highway and regularly used property access.

Where significant structural root decay is confirmed, crown reduction may not provide a sufficiently reliable long-term solution to loss of anchorage.

The applicant requests that the Local Planning Authority considers the photographic evidence alongside the accompanying arboricultural inspection findings when determining whether removal is justified.

5. Method of Work

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Subject to the necessary consent, LC Tree Care proposes to undertake controlled sectional dismantling using suitable specialist access equipment and rigging methods.

Appropriate exclusion zones, site protection measures and any necessary highway management arrangements will be established before commencement.

Stump grinding and any further root excavation required for future boundary wall reconstruction and hedge planting will be agreed separately with the property owner.

6. Conclusion

The photographic evidence demonstrates substantial fungal fruiting bodies at the base of T1 and within the shared rooting area of the two mature beech trees.

Given the recognised association between suspected Meripilus giganteus and structural root decay in beech, together with the roadside and residential entrance setting, further consideration of the trees' stability is warranted.

The applicant respectfully requests consent for the controlled removal of T1 and T2, supported by individual tree assessments and the accompanying photographic evidence.

Best regards,
Lee Collyer
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