

Application to remove an existing Hawthorn Tree at 39 Kingsway, Craigweil, PO21 4DH

Background

The current residents moved to the freehold property on 8th January 2020

The property is in a conservation area and was extended some 12 years ago

There are no existing Tree Preservation orders which apply directly to the property however TP{O/AW/261/10 which relates directly to 41 Kingsway mentions a number of properties by way of copy and 39 Kingsway is one of those properties

The tree is mature (see photo), overhangs the property and straddles both numbers 39 and 41 Kingsway

Adjacent residents at 37 & 41 Kingsway have been consulted and have no objection to the tree being removed. The resident at 37 Kingsway is a Director of the Craigweil Private Estate Board.

The tree is not visible to any resident opposite 39 Kingsway

Reasons for requesting removal of the tree

These are principally on health and safety grounds and because the tree and its roots are now becoming too close to the property. Dealing with these points in turn:

1 Health and safety grounds

The tree sheds a prolific number of berries across the adjacent patio and barbeque area (see photos) which is used as a dining and socialising area next to the main kitchen

The berries are used by some for both cooking and for treating a variety of maladies. However research makes it very clear that the pips of the berries are toxic, which is confirmed by the Royal Horticultural Society

The pips of the berries contain an amygdalin compound (cyanide that has bonded with sugar) which when digested into the small intestine turns into hydrogen cyanide. This can cause both poisoning and illness in varying degrees. However for children the adverse effects are likely to be more pronounced

The thorns ejected by the tree are long and very spiky sufficient even to penetrate heavy gloves, garden shoes, flip-flops and cause injury and create painful splinter wounds to both humans and animals

The tree also deposits both berries and thorns into the adjacent property

The owners of the property are in their early 70's and have two very young grandchildren and grown up children with small dogs. They plan to enjoy their retirement with some socializing as and when possible. The hazards caused by the tree, thorns and the berries are clear for children, pets and adults. In what is an increasingly litigious society, the owners want to remove this health and safety hazard

2 Proximity to the property

As can be seen from the attached photos the tree is very close to an adjacent utility and garage area. Growth on the tree can be up to 24 inches a year and it is likely that the tree roots will threaten the foundations of the property in the near future

When replacing some rotting decking in the springtime with a solid block floor the roots of the tree were exposed and found to be of significant girth and length. This was to such a degree that it was necessary to vary the plans for the block-work floor by building the retaining wall for the block work around and above the roots of the tree (see photo)

Angie and Andy Kitson



