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Hi Zoe,

Following a long conversation between our Arborist and the Tree Officer yesterday, as no additional works could be agreed we would like to progress the application based on the recommendations in the tree officers report, with the view to reassess the tree in the future when further works are required.

Regards,

Mary Davis-Reason



Dear Mary,

Thank you for your emails.

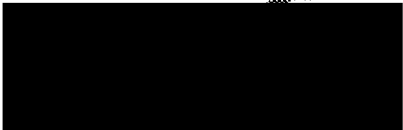
I have been in contact with Daniel and Mark while I have been away and all correspondence has been reviewed by all parties.

The decision to this application will be made by 01/02/21 and will be sent to your agent.

Many thanks

Zoe Toppin

Planning Apprentice, Planning





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Dear Zoe and others who it may concern,

To follow on from my correspondence on the 21st January, please can you advise if you have been able to review the contents of my last email ahead of making a decision on this application?

Daniel was going to refer this back to the Tree Officer who previously made the report, however Daniel's wording indicated it would be the Tree Officers report alone that the decision would be based on. I would like to ask for this application to be reviewed as a whole, by all parties, including previously approved works and the supporting document from neighbouring properties.

My previous email can be seen in the chain below in for reference, and I hope our points will be taken into consideration.

Many thanks.

Kind regards,

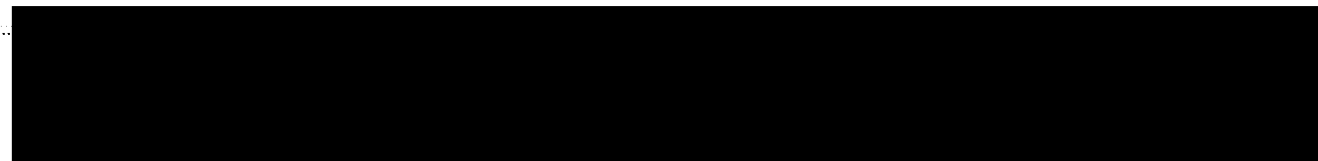
Mary Davis-Reason

Mary,

Thanks for the reply.

As Mark is the expert in these issues we are very much driven by his recommendation. I am sure he will contact Gavin when time allows,

Daniel Vick

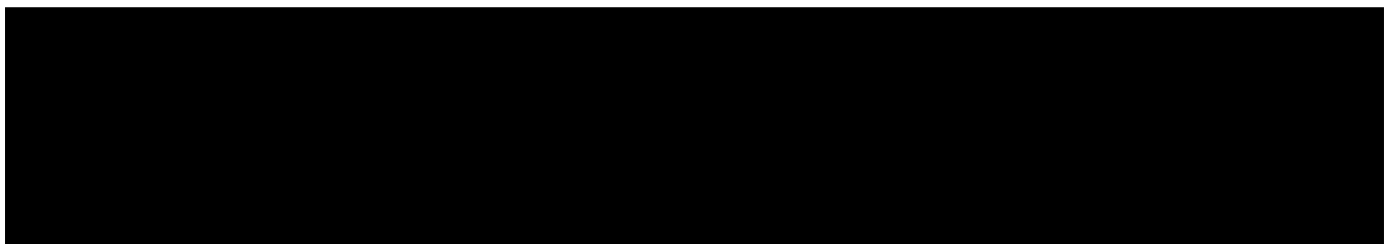


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Save the environment - think before you print.



Dear Daniel,

Thank you for your email.

We are still considering our options at this stage, and I think the final decision would very much be dependent on hearing back from your tree officer after our points have been considered.

Additionally, is it possible for the application to be reviewed by the case officer as well as the tree officer.

I would also be grateful if your tree officer would contact Gavin at Woodsmen tree services, so he may discuss the application with him also.

We look forward to hearing back, so that we can then make a more informed decision regarding the works.

Many thanks for your help.

Kind Regards,

Mary

[Redacted signature block]

Mary,

Thanks for this. I have invited our tree officer to consider your email.

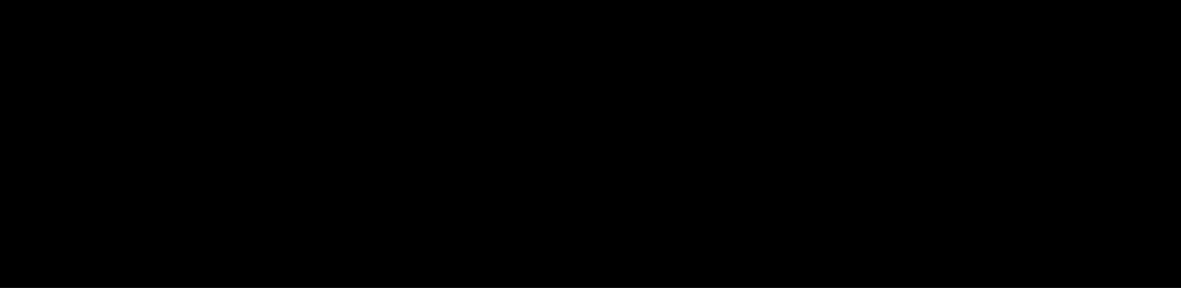
We are due to make a decision on the application by 1st February. If the recommendation of the tree officer remains refuse unless the description is amended please confirm how you wish to proceed i) accept refusal or ii) agree amended description.

Daniel Vick

[Redacted signature block]

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Dear Zoe, and to whomever else it may concern,

I'm emailing with regards to our application, AW/347/20/T, for the tree works to the Ash tree at the rear of our property 4 Lucerne Court, PO21 4XL.

Our Arborist, Dr Gavin Walker, has informed us of the email which details the tree officers report, which recommends refusal of the works requested, which we are surprised and disappointed to hear considering previous works carried out. Based on this I would like to raise a few points and questions with aim of finding an agreeable solution for all parties involved.

The scope of the work requested was to maintain the scale of the tree and its health when compared to the size of the garden, as has been done every 4 years since 2008. Similar requests have been submitted in 2008, 2012 (AW/265/12/T) and 2016 (AW/185/16/T) which have included reducing the spread of the tree and thinning of the crown, so I'm unsure as to why this similar application would be refused, 5 years since the last application, as it seems a precedent has previously been set. The works requested here are inline with all of the previous tree works carried out, and we aren't requesting anything more.

Furthermore, the Tree officer said that any cutting of the top of the tree would irrevocably spoil its natural looking form, however, as the tree has had works to the crown in 2008, 2012 and 2016, I believe the form isn't natural and sculptured by previous arborists, and therefore could easily be maintained by a specialist such as Dr Gavin Walker at Woodsmen Tree services. (Gavin has in detail explained to us the importance of keeping the tree a natural shape, so this should not be an issue.)

The tree is said to have a high amenity value, which to an extent I believe is true, but the application has received a letter of support from No. 2 Lucerne Court as the upper branches of the tree hang over the 4 neighbouring gardens. From the road the tree is hidden by houses, so the main amenity value would be to the neighbouring properties who can see this from their back gardens. It is one of these neighbours who actively supported the request for works to be undertaken.

Also, in the report the tree officer mentioned that the Ash tree typically lets light to percolate through to the plants beneath which is beneficial for partial shade-loving plants. However, when looking at the plants beneath it's clear they aren't thriving under the dominant tree cover. Specifically, because of this we were planning to remove most of the plants in this area from under the tree which would be a shame as otherwise there would a wide diversity of plants at ground level. When the tree is full with leaves, almost no light passes through to the ground. The tree was viewed in January when there were no leaves on the tree; in the summer the tree is much more dominant with branches also hanging lower, and the vast scale of it can fully be appreciated.

Please understand our intention is to look after this tree as best we can for the years ahead as we see it as an asset to the property, and we are just requesting to maintain the tree with careful pruning to a reasonable size for the garden and neighbouring properties, as it has been in the past. Based on this, please can we request permission for a sympathetic reduction to the crown, to bring it in line with the works previously carried out over the last 13 years.

After speaking again with Dr Gavin Walker, (cc'd in this email), in his opinion works could be carried out sensitively without risk of undue stress to the tree. I'm sure Gavin would happily discuss this in detail with you from an arborist perspective, so please do contact him also, so he may offer his expertise.

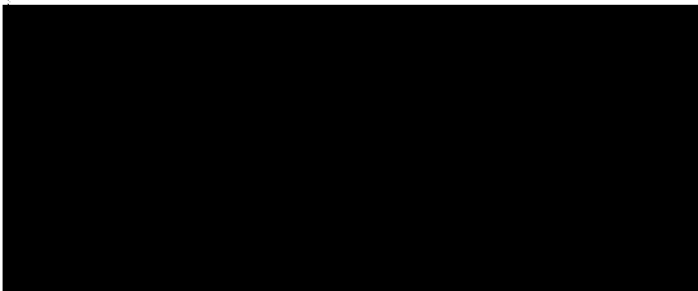
I would ask you to consider the above and that we can agree to a reduction to the crown, in addition to lifting the crown to 2.5m in line with previous works.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any further questions.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Davis-Reason

Owner and applicant at 4 Lucerne Court, PO21 4XL



Hi Mary

Please see the forwarded email from ADC. It contains both good and bad news!

Firstly, the bad news: they will not allow any reduction work to the crown of the tree. In other words, the overall height and width of the tree must stay the same.

The good news: they will allow the 2.5m crown lift and also selective 1m reductions away from other trees, shrubs, fences etc.

The application as it stands will be refused.

So options are to not do any tree work, or agree to the changes. This will obviously be less work for my team and the quote can be reduced accordingly.

Give it some thought, have a look at the email and get back to me.

By all means give me a call tomorrow or Thursday in the daytime for a chat.

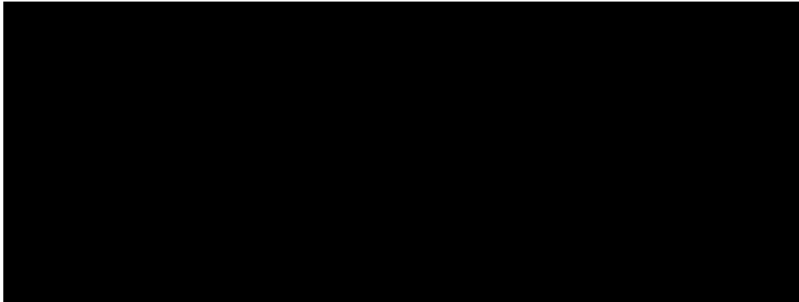
Best wishes

Gavin

WTS

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:



Dear Dr Walker,

I am emailing you regarding your application at 4 Lucerne Court. As the application stands it is set to be refused. Can you confirm via response to this email that you agree to the proposed changes suggested by the Arun Arboriculturist so that I can move the application forward.

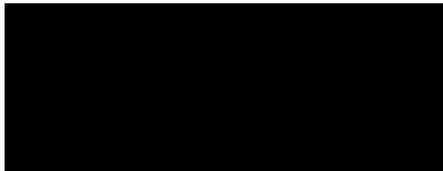
Kind regards

Finlay

Finlay Gardner

Planning Officer,

Planning Department

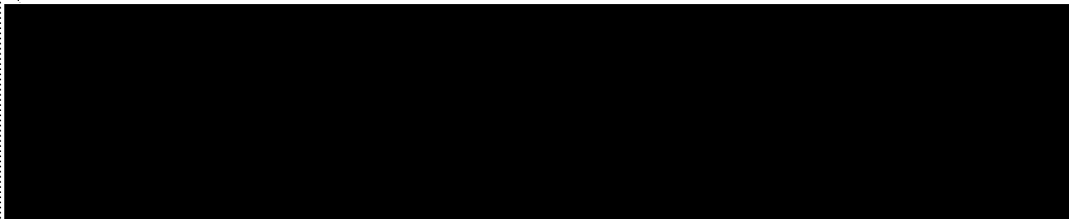
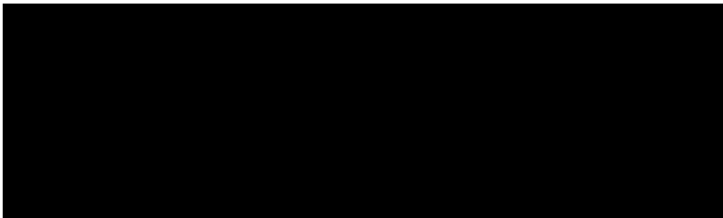


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Please find attached my report for your consideration.

Kind regards,

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer, Greenspace Team



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