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07 AUG 2023

112 Botany Bay Rd  
Sholing  
Southampton  
Hants  
SO19 8FB

24<sup>th</sup> July 2023

**REF: T2-772 TPO (ROBINIA) APPEAL / OBJECTION ON BEHALF OF THE RESIDENTS OF 108, 110, 112 & 114 BOTANY BAY RD, SHOLING, SOUTHAMPTON, HANTS SO19 8FB**

Dear Sir(s) / Madam(s),

I contacted the tree department a few years ago after seeking my neighbours' opinions on if they were adamant that they along with us and wanted the tree to be removed. At the time this was met with a resounding agreement to remove the tree, unfortunately it has taken us a while to be able to save the money we need to pay for its removal. You may have a record of this on your files but I unfortunately no longer have this as I made my enquiry by phone and was informed by phone that there was no TPO on the said tree at that time.

As a result of this we are shocked to receive the referenced TPO as we were constantly under the impression that those that lived under the affects of the tree only had one focus, that was to see it gone.

While we understand the need for there to be an environment that encourages and supports the growth and splendour of vegetation, we question the sustainability of this with regards to the tree that has the TPO placed on it on the grounds of 112 Botany Bay Rd.

In accordance with the appeals process as mentioned in your letter we therefore submit this letter as a formal appeal/objection against the placement of the above TPO on 112 Botany Bay Rd on behalf of the residents of the above properties for the following reasons:

1. The tree has for many, many years been the subject of verbal complaints to the residents of 112 Botany Bay Rd by the other residents of the properties that are listed above as it greatly reduces and can totally block any natural light (depending on the time of year) from entering their properties.
2. With fuel bills already at a massive height for the vast majority of the UK population, the tree is causing mental distress to all of the residents of the properties listed as they are having to use more electricity due to the sheer size of the tree and the quantity of natural light it completely blocks, placing an increased financial burden on them than what they would be if the tree was no longer there.
3. The mental health of the residents of 112 Botany Bay Rd has been affected over the years by the quantity of complaints where it had been arranged for the tree to be removed to bring to an end the quantity of issues this tree has caused.
4. The tree is extremely large in size for the plot it is on and if it was to fall in the direction of any of the properties it would cause severe damage to property and potentially to human health/life and affect the health/lives of pets within or kept on the grounds of them.
5. High and low level branches have become detached from the tree during moderate and high winds, hung precariously and fallen to the ground narrowly missing passersby where connection with one of these branches could prove fatal, the risk to human health is too great and as there is no pavement people generally do walk on the side of the road that the tree is positioned because of the abundance of nettles that grow wildly on the opposite side of the road which are seldom tended as that is council owned land so people avoid that side of the road.
6. It is a tree comprising of multiple stems that due to its size is expected to become too great and potentially fall onto the road endangering the health/lives of anyone walking or travelling in vehicles and a potential threat to damaging vehicles travelling or parked either on the road or using the properties off-road parking.
7. During moderate/high winds it is extremely common for branches to fall onto parked cars and onto the surrounding properties land giving rise to the potential for damaging property and potentially endangering human health/life of the residents, anyone visiting or anyone delivering to these properties.
8. The tree grows extremely long spikes on it's branches far larger and longer than any seen on any other plants, it has been known for these to cause damage to vehicle tyres if they are driven into or over.
9. There is an overhang of growth from trees directly opposite 112 Botany Bay Rd (and further) where this, together with the additional branches that are growing from the tree that has a TPO placed on it reducing the width of the road and these together increase the hazards of the road to an unacceptable level. Both sides are causing the problem, it isn't one side or the other alone.

10. The tree overhangs cables and street lighting which adds to the hazards of the roads usage making visibility during darkness or inclement weather much harder to see through increasing the risk of injury/harm and possibly prove fatal.
11. Arrangements by the residents of 112 Botany Bay Rd on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2023 were to be made, where a date was to be scheduled for the removal of the said tree (Robinia) by a fully qualified tree surgeon where the residents of the above addresses were and remain in full support of, where receiving the TPO has completely dismayed all residents adding to their mental anxieties.
12. With all of the issues that have been presented as part of this objection, we question how when the previous points have been considered, by keeping this tree as a TPO it shall have a detrimental impact on the amenity of the area and the suggestion of enjoyment by the public.

[REDACTED]

As responsible owners (at 112 Botany Bay Rd), we have periodically paid to have elements of the tree removed that if left would have caused imminent risk to peoples' health/lives and potential damage to property or vehicles. From almost 20 years of experience where things can deteriorate quite rapidly with this tree and branches become precariously hazardous and to be told that we must wait until we have approval from the council serves as something of an insult to us and a time delay in increasing these risks if this objection is not accepted. Has this tree been risk assessed against any of the points that we have mentioned here, if so, can we please have a copy of this.

We look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Can you please provide me with your reasons in response to all of my points I have detailed above, if you do not consider the health and wellbeing of all those this tree could harm and is affecting to be at sufficient risk, as the joint owner of the property that the said tree is positioned on I would like to have your understanding of what it is that you are prioritising so that I can circulate to my neighbours who are living this dreadful experience along with us.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

(On behalf of all those named as residents at the addresses referenced in this appeal/objection)