

BREINTON PARISH COUNCIL

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25 August 2022

Oliver Kaye
Herefordshire Council
Plough Lane
Hereford
HR4 0LE

Dear Mr Kaye

Planning Application P222538/J Work to tree covered by TPO_214 ref: 027366 at 353 Kings Acre Road, Hereford, HR4 0SL

Breinton Parish Council have considered the above planning application and OBJECT to any works being carried out on the large lime tree for the reasons as follows.

This is a splendid tree and one of the most significant trees in Hereford. It is a superb example of a Silver Pendant Lime *Tilia tomentosa "petiolaris"*. In April 2018 it was the subject of a previous application for work (P181002), although the species was almost certainly incorrectly identified. At that time the independent expert from Trilloes Tree Services said 'this is a spectacular tree and in very good health'.

The work for which permission was being sought under P181002 was limited to

- 1) reducing/thinning the tips of the lowest branches (which were brushing the tops of passing lorries and buses and were in contact with the telephone cable); and
- 2) the removal of all major deadwood.

In response to the 2018 application, Breinton Parish Council's position was that only the minimum amount of work on this tree should be carried out. The Parish Council maintains this position again. It is unclear what, if any, of the work approved in 2018 was carried out within the two year time frame agreed. However, it seems unlikely that the condition of this specimen tree has declined so spectacularly in the last four years to merit the scale and seriousness of the work including its complete removal, which is now being proposed.

We have photographed buses passing right under the tree and only the occasional double decker and taller lorries could possibly brush it's branches at the current time.

While this tree is not part of the main avenue of limes on Kings Acre Road, it is in a line of somewhat unusual trees planted by the Williamson family who owned the area as part of the historic Wyevale/Kings Acre Nurseries. The family business continues elsewhere, locally as Wyevale Nurseries although the garden centre itself passed from the family to a separate national chain (Wyevale) and now into the ownership of Blue Diamond.

The applicant declares this tree dangerous, diseased with fungi, and with roots lifting the drive, but does not provide photographic evidence, or any report from a professional arboriculturist. It is a large tree, with a girth of 4.7m according to its entry on the Ancient Tree Inventory. From our observations we do not agree that the tree should be removed completely or pollarded, if indeed it ever was. We do not see any dangerous boughs or evidence of disease.

As observed from the public highway, there may be a very faint line of failure in the tarmac of the drive, but roots do not seem to have actually raised the surface. There is no visible sign of fungi at or near the base on the road side of the tree.

To conclude, this is a particularly special tree, and it's distinctive presence on the western approach to Hereford and as part of Breinton's heritage, must be preserved.

Kind regards

Emily Godsall
Clerk, Breinton Parish Council