

Lloyd Fursdon
Tree Officer
Winchester City Council
City Offices
Colebrook Street
Winchester
SO23 9LJ

Bishop's Waltham Society



7 Charles Hemming Drive
Bishop's Waltham
SO32 1QS

14th June 2020

Dear Mr Fursdon

**Ref: 20/00434/TPO Removal of oak tree in Ashton Close Bishop's Waltham
protected by Tree Preservation Order (TPO) 1561T1**

On behalf of the Bishop's Waltham Society, we wish to object to the application to remove the mature oak tree covered by TPO 1561T1.

Obviously the Society has every sympathy with the problems faced by the residents involved in this application. But since the tree pre-dates the building of the house, by many years, the insurance company must have offered cover for subsidence in the knowledge of the tree's size and position. They should not shirk their responsibility for proper underpinning that their acceptance of premiums implies.

Much of the character of Bishop's Waltham is based on its trees, not only those forming the edge of the town like the Park Lug but also the numerous trees along the roads and those that are in residents' back gardens. It is significant that so many of these have received the 'protection' of a TPO.

We feel that the amenity value of this tree is based on the following:

- It is the only significant tree in Ashton Close and as such softens the landscape and forms a major focal point. Its loss would have a severe detrimental effect on the local visual aspect
- It assists in blending the nearby South Downs National Park (Ashton Close forms the boundary to the Park) with this development
- It is an important wildlife support for a variety of birds and other wildlife such as insects
- In these days of high pollution and climate concerns, a tree of this size has an important role to play

The value of trees to the community was acknowledged in the Bishops Waltham Design Statement both in general comments and specifically in Policy No 7.1.

We note that there is an alternative to tree removal to resolve the problems identified in this application and hope that this is the route that will be followed.

Yours sincerely

Tony Kippenberger
Chairman

cc: Alan Inder, Pauline Mousley