

From: David Pizzey

Sent: 16 May 2017 12:43

To: Jane Storey (Personal) <jane-storey@btconnect.com>

Cc: Sarah Mansel <Sarah.Mansel@midsuffolk.gov.uk>; Jane Storey <Jane.Storey@midsuffolk.gov.uk>; Philip Isbell <Philip.Isbell@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk>; A Baully <dianebaully@btconnect.com>

Subject: RE: Application to fell tree at Ticehurst Farm, Tostock and Tree Preservation Order

Dear Cllr Storey

Thank you for your email regarding this matter.

I do understand your concerns about this tree and the decision to make a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) is not one that is taken lightly. However, when I inspected the tree from ground level I could find no evidence that it is unsafe or unhealthy. A number of branches were blown off during storm Doris but these could all be seen to contain weaknesses that increased the likelihood of such failure during extreme weather conditions. I understand that the tree had not been subject to inspections or management. If this had been undertaken then it is probable these faults would have been identified and the defective parts removed. The condition of trees inevitably changes and it is for this reason that periodic checks are essential.

Regarding absolute safety of the tree, unfortunately this is not something I can guarantee as it is not possible to do so for any kind of structure. Trees, like many things, are essential to our lives but also contribute to the hazards of life. These risks can be managed to within acceptable limits but to eliminate them entirely would involve destroying nearly all trees (it is worth bearing in mind that the risk from trees is much lower than from many other everyday things that are readily accepted on a daily basis). Please be assured that a TPO does not prevent works to make a tree safe, including felling, if this is required. The purpose of the TPO is to ensure such works are necessary and informed by an evidence based approach. In this case I have advised that an additional climbing inspection would be prudent and give this important tree the consideration I think it justifies.

Finally, the decision to confirm this TPO is likely to be taken by members and I will let you know the committee date when it is scheduled. If you have any further questions in the meantime please do not hesitate to ask.

Regards

David Pizzey

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Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils - Working Together

From: Jane Storey [<mailto:jane-storey@btconnect.com>]
Sent: 12 May 2017 14:38
To: David Pizzey
Cc: Sarah Mansel; Jane Storey; Philip Isbell; A Baully
Subject: Application to fell tree at Ticehurst Farm, Tostock and Tree Preservation Order

Dear Mr Pizzey

'One mans terrorist is another mans freedom fighter'

is an expression that was used by the padre at my husbands Army chapel - one where most of those attending church were bomb disposal officers who had served in Northern Ireland.

I would suggest that this expression could also be used for the feelings that you have towards the Sequoia tree at Ticehurst Farm. You *believe* it to be beautiful and have no reason to suggest it is not healthy. My mother, the owner of this property, *believes* that it is beautiful but also believes, with very good reason, that it is NOT healthy.

According to my research the root system for this type of tree is shallow, around 5 - 6 feet deep. It can spread out for several hundred feet, and depending on the height and age of the tree can spread up to four acres. This tree shakes a lot in the wind - it is UNHEALTHY - otherwise the branches that have come down recently, would not have come down. Nobody can ASSURE us categorically that it is safe. You may well *believe* it to be safe but are you prepared to stake your life on it = as you are asking my mother and other members of my family to do?

The photographs that I have attached illustrate the overpowering effect that this tree has on not only the farm house but also the buildings nearby. They are taken from a neighbouring field and are not a normal view of the tree and buildings. This tree is in the wrong place - it should be in a large park. A similar tree came down in Woolpit and narrowly missed a Grade 2 listed farmhouse. However this tree falls, whichever direction, it will do harm to the Grade 2 listed farm house, also the farm buildings (now offices) and neighbouring properties - putting many peoples lives at risk.

My mothers doctor has a view on this - not only is her health at risk through the worry about the tree but he points out that a tree is much like a human body - once it is diseased then the whole body is at risk. The branches that have already broken off are very large and are obviously showing signs of disease. There are more that can be seen from underneath the tree.

This tree needs to come down before it falls down. To put a Tree Preservation Order on it is surely in contradiction to the aims of English Heritage who seek to protect the building? The Tree Preservation Order is your way of keeping a beautiful tree in place - but at the risk of life and limb? You cannot guarantee that this tree is safe and no tree surgeon would assure us of that either - even those that have been up the tree.

The only way to truly preserve life and limb, and property - is for this tree to be felled. My mother has offered to plant another, but in a more suitable location. Imagine if that tree comes down - it doesn't matter what direction - it will destroy at least two houses, office buildings and, if an estimate of the root system is to be *believed*, it could have a major effect on the Beyton Road and possibly the A14. Several other houses and properties could be rendered unsafe.

I strongly urge you to agree to the felling of this tree, It is a source of considerable worry to my family but in particular to my mother, who loves underneath it, and my brother, who lives next door. It has no amenity value - nobody at the recent Annual Parish Meeting wanted it kept - it is dangerous.

If your mother lived under such a threat to her life you would feel as passionate about it as I do.

I BEG of you and my fellow councillors NOT to endorse the Tree Preservation Order and to approve the application to fell this tree.

Jane Storey