

Accompany notes to support the application for works to be carried out to trees behind 87 - 95 Heather Rd, Meltham, HD9 4HT (TPO 22/97/G2)

1. Photo 1. shows the trees at the rear of 87 Heather rd., there are 3 overcrowded Sycamore trees from left (a) to right on the picture. We would like to remove all the dead and crossing branches on (a), we'd like to take out (b) altogether and attend to (c) as (a). all three of these are large and in a crowded position.... Alternatively (a) could be removed as it is a poor example but then (b) & (c) need attention, pruning etc.
2. Photo 2. This tree is at the behind 87 -89 Heather rd. and is a large Sycamore that has many excessively large extended boughs that need to be removed. There is also a great deal of poor-quality rotten branches that pose a risk to the people and property at 87 & 89 Heather rd. Photo 3 shows the branch that came down during storm Amy, from a height of 10m +. You can see the position of the break Photo 4. This branch extends for approx. 8m and is 150mm+ in diameter. This tree needs significant work to make it safe, photo's 5 & 6. shows the poor condition of the tree with what looks like jelly ear fungus in photo 6
3. Photo 7. shows another Sycamore behind 89 Heather rd. in poor condition with a great deal of rotten and dead branches throughout. Again, the tree needs a lot of attention by removing the dangerous branches. Photo 8 shows the poor quality of this tree
4. Photo 9. Shows a poor-quality tree again behind 91 Heather rd., we think this is White Beam there is a significant amount of dead and decaying wood that needs removing, unfortunately it may be best to remove this tree as it is a generally poor specimen as also can be seen on photo 10.
5. Photo 11. shows a large Sycamore, behind 91 Heather rd., with a very heavy secondary "trunk", whilst it appears okay now, I would like it removed as the lhs heavy bough "joint", where the trunks split is retaining water and will be a future problem, currently a depth gauge can be pushed into the joint for several cms. The removal of the lhs bough would make this a better specimen and reduce the chances of a potentially dangerous major fracture. Once again, this tree needs general pruning. There is also a Scots pine behind 91/93 Heather rd. that would benefit from the removal of its lower older branches which have naturally died back. This tree only needs minimal work.
6. Photo 12. Shows another large Sycamore with a double trunk, this time behind 93 Heather rd. Whilst in reasonable condition it would benefit from the lhs trunk removing and making into a decent "single trunk" tree.
7. There are two more large Sycamores behind number 95 that also would benefit from pruning and de-dead wooding, which are currently in fair condition. Unfortunately trapped under their canopy is a very poor Whitebeam and an Ash that is just about surviving but is in a very poor overall condition.

Generally, all the trees that are to the back of 87 -91 Heather Rd are in a poor condition and have been neglected for the past 25 years. Unfortunately, since the TPO was issued (as requested by the Methodist Church) no maintenance work or pruning has taken place on the trees in this TPO, therefore the trees now require a significant amount of work to remove damaged, dead, rotten, decaying and unsafe branches.

We want to keep as many as the trees as we possibly can and to remove as little as necessary, but we must also take into consideration the safety of our neighbours and their property. We propose that we be allowed to remove lower branches of less than 150mm as required and all dangerous branches at any level. As can be seen from the recent storm damage the trees need care and significant work.

We have discussed the requirements with Sharp Tree Services, who carried out some work on TPO ref 22/97/g3 in the Methodist section of the Calmlands Burial Grounds, Calmlands road a few years ago. (Planning application 2022/TWA/91531/W. TPO 22/97/G3)

We would like to address the need soonest as we wish to carry out the work required over the winter months whilst the trees are without leaves.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Smith