

The Inspector also accepted a number of concerns that were raised during the appeal, including

- Significant overhang into our garden (37 Southcroft Gate)
- The shading caused by the trees
- The impact of leaves, seeds, flowers and honeydew, particularly given the size of my garden.
- Concerns regarding falling branches in an area regularly used by my children

These were clearly afforded weight by the inspector, even though he ultimately concluded that complete removal was not justified. Pollarding represents the balanced solution that the inspector indicated and should be explored.

I would also like to raise a matter that was completely overlooked by the council during this process. In my initial application I explained that my young son suffered a choking incident involving the sycamore buds/seeds from these trees. This was a genuine safeguarding concern and was included as part of my evidence. However the council made no reference whatsoever to this incident in its decision. It is disappointing that a matter concerning a child's safety was ignored entirely without any acknowledgement or assessment.

The ongoing impact these trees are having on our family should also not be underestimated. We are a young family and due to the constant falling buds, seeds, branches and debris, our children are increasingly unable to enjoy playing outside in our own garden. Instead of being able to use the outdoor space as intended we are constantly concerned about what is falling from the trees and the amount of debris covering the grass and play area. This creates an ongoing financial burden, as a struggling young family these maintenance costs are difficult to absorb and place unnecessary pressure on us. While I appreciate that some level of maintenance is expected when living near trees but in this particular case, the significant overhang and the small size of my garden mean these impacts should be given more than minimal weight.

Another significant impact on our daily lives is that we are frequently unable to hang our washing out to dry. Due to the excessive amount of bird droppings, sap, buds, seeds and debris falling from the trees, clean washing is often soiled before it has dried meaning it has to be washed again. This not only causes frustration but also increases our household costs through additional water, detergent, electricity etc. These are unnecessary expenses that could be substantially reduced through pollarding of the trees.

Collectively these issues are having a significant impact on our family's quality of life. We are constantly dealing with excessive shading, falling buds, seeds, leaves, bird droppings and ongoing maintenance. Our children are unable to fully enjoy the garden as they should. Not to mention again the choking incident we had with my son. We cannot reliably hang washing outside without it becoming contaminated and we continue to face additional cleaning and upkeep costs. This is not a reasonable way for a family to live or enjoy their home and garden.

Given the inspectors findings, i now request that the council determine this application on its own merits and in accordance with the guidance provided within the appeal decision.

Pollarding would

- retain both protected trees
- preserve their contribution to the character and apperance of the area
- substantially reduce the overhang and shading
- reduce the volume of debris,buds,seeds,branches
- improve safety and allow the trees to be managed sustainably going forward.

I trust the council will give a proper consideration to the inspectors comments and will support this more proportionate form of mangament, rather than requiring residents to continue living with the impacts that the inspector himself acknowledged.