Comments on Application ref:2026 /92230.

I am the owner of the trees referred to in the above application.

I am attaching 4 photographs to this document. These show the trees which are in question. I will explain the photos in order- the first one which looks east shows the lower parts of branches close to the ground. The metal fencing, which is to protect the tree protection zone, has been moved into contact with the end of the branches to enable access and work on plot 24 of the building development.
Photo two, looking upward, shows the end of a high branch from a walnut tree. The wire is a telephone line running approx. west – east.
Photo 3,looking east, shows branches of a sycamore and their relative proximity to the metal fencing and the telephone wire. The partly visible house is plot 19.
Photo 4 looks west and shows a sycamore labelled as T2 in the tree report. It shows the position of the tree relative to the metal fence and the partly rebuilt dry stone field boundary wall.

The Application .

I was not contacted by the applicant prior to the application.
When I received it from the council, I could not open or download the photos listed on the council website. I was also unclear on what was meant in key parts of the application form.
I therefore contacted the council by email seeking copies of the photos and clarification of the application but despite a chaser email and telephone call I received no response.
As a result of this, I contacted the applicant's site manager and arranged a meeting with him on site to seek clarity as to what the applicant wanted to do to which trees and why.
His comments can be summarised as follows-
The low branches in photo 1 to be cut back so that they do not overhang the future garden of the plot.
The branches in photo 2 to be cut back away from the wire.
The branches in photo 3 to be cut back away from the wire and if possible back from the building.
Low branches in photo 4 to be cut back to enable boundary fencing to be erected and field boundary wall to be restored.
The site manager stated that professional tree surgeons would be used and that the applicant would leave it to their judgement and experience to decide how much should be cut and on which branches.

My Comments on the trees.

All four of the trees are mature specimens and it is right that they are protected.
The tree in photo 1 is an elm. As mentioned, tree in photo 2 is a walnut.
The trees in photos 3 and 4 are sycamores.
It should be noted that the sycamore in photo 4 is NOT on my property but on the applicant's land.

Comments on the application.

The application form states that the applicant only seeks permission to carry out the minimum level of work.
I am agreeable in principle to the requested work explained by the applicant's site manager and noted above but I want to ensure that the council is careful to take steps to ensure proper protection for the trees.
With that in mind, I suggest that a tree officer should visit the site to view the trees and to meet the tree surgeon who will be instructed to carry out the work. This will enable the tree officer to find out how much reduction is proposed and this can then be considered and a careful decision made and set out clearly in any written permission.
As the owner of 3 of the 4 trees identified, I would like to be present at such a meeting.
The other matter relevant to any tree work is the weather. Because of the protracted drought this summer, most plants are under stress and it would be sensible to defer any pruning works until after substantial rainfall when it can safely be said that the drought is over.

28th August 2026.