

COPY

Applegate  
East End  
Hook Norton  
Oxon  
OX15 5LH  
29.08.08

Mr J Brewin  
Arboriculture Officer  
Bodicote  
Banbury  
Oxfordshire  
OX15 4AA

Dear Mr Brewin

After giving more consideration to the felling of a Silver Birch tree in our garden, we would be very grateful if you would include the factors 'below' in the notification, together with the those in the original notification, as we are becoming more concerned about the safety of the tree.

- Two trees, very close to the tree in question, were felled last year. These trees provided protection against the prevailing winds, thus giving collective strength against them. The protection is therefore no longer there.
- As Silver Birch trees have shallow roots, we feel this tree, now being very exposed, is ever more vulnerable to falling over – possibly into a neighbour's garden which is the direction in which it is leaning.
- We realize that Silver Birch trees have a comparatively short life span. We understand from a previous owner of the property, that the trees were planted in the 1960's. This leads us to believe that the tree is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of its life. Now would be an appropriate time to plant a replacement tree.
- Several neighbours in this area of Hook Norton are very concerned about the presence of honey fungus in their gardens. Indeed, two weeks ago a large Maple tree, very close to the silver birch in question, has been felled due to honey fungus.
- Our garden used to be an apple orchard, hence the name 'Applegate'. We understand that honey fungus can be prevalent among fruit trees and can survive in the soil for many decades. The tree in question appears to have a less healthy canopy this year, and we are concerned that it may succumb to an attack of honey fungus in the near future, and become dangerous as a result.

The tree is situated at the bottom of a 'dead-end' lane and about 200 metres from the public highway. The immediate neighbours can see it. However it is only visible to the public in general, after a very careful and detailed study of the area.

Once again, thank you for your help in this matter

Yours sincerely

J.B.Hamilton