

[REDACTED]

From: julie stanhope <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 09 May 2018 18:17
To: Planning
Cc: Philip Stokes; Carina Hildebrandt; Vivianna Fain Binda
Subject: Planning application 2018/1894/T

Dear Sir/Madame,

I am writing as one of the leaseholders of 16, Parsifal road to object to the planning application made by Mr Gould for removal of the cherry tree located at the front of our property. My reasons for this are as follow ;

1. There is a history of subsidence in the area. Thus in or about 1998 subsidence work was undertaken to the front of No. 16. At the time no issue was taken with the tree it being acknowledged that the cause of the subsidence to our property was due to other causes.
2. It is noted that number 14, Parsifal has made subsidence claims in 2007 and 2010 and it would appear that subsequently work was undertaken to the front step area of number 14. We have not been provided with a copy of these earlier reports and therefore cannot place the current report in context although it should be noted that we have received no prior request to remove the tree. A request to have the tree at number 16 reduced in height was complied with.
3. Prior to being advised of the planning application neither ourselves the freeholder nor our insurers were contacted about this issue. The ground floor flat has been sold over the past two years and in the structural survey undertaken in the course of this purchase no issue as to subsidence was noted. Given our greater proximity to the disputed tree I find it strange that it has no impact on our property yet has allegedly significant impact on number 14.
4. We have upon receipt of this application notified our insurers as to this issue as the total removal of the tree has potential I would have thought to impact on the structural stability of our property and is an issue which our respective insurers through the appropriate experts be afforded time to investigate. Otherwise by precipitous action to allegedly remedy an issue at number 14 a issue may be caused to our property.
5. There are two reports provided in support of this application. The technical report dated the 07-12-2016 states "we have written to the Local Authority regarding their tree" This is a reference to a large maple tree on the pavement outside number 14. Neither the letter nor the response are included in this application although the same is clearly of relevance to this application.
6. The aforementioned report also makes clear that it is not just a report from MWA Arboriculture Ltd that is required to properly investigate this matter but also typically these works will involve trial pits, boreholes etc. It is not clear whether this supporting work has been undertaken and if it has why the same has not been included with this application.
7. The report from MWA Arboriculture is, based on the foregoing, inconclusive and speculative in it's nature. It makes clear that there is evidence that the roots of the maple tree situated on the pavement outside number 14 were found in the course of their investigations as were the roots of the ornamental grasses outside number 14. There is no evidence in their report that the roots of the cherry tree were found in the area of movement. Their report is wholly silent as to why they feel the cherry tree as opposed the maple tree is the cause of the alleged subsidence.
8. Based on the above it is possible that the cherry tree which is a source of great pleasure to any passer by is prematurely removed only for a year from now for a further application to be made for the removal of the maple tree.
9. There is no consideration in the report as to whether regular pruning of the cherry tree would alleviate any concerns as to it being the alleged cause of the subsidence.
10. In brief I object to this planning request as I do not think that the necessary steps prior to the same have been undertaken to demonstrate taking into account the history of the two properties that it is the cherry tree which is the cause of the alleged subsidence, the works sought are proportionate or that any consideration has been given to any possible issues which may arise to our own property in consequence of this application.

Yours faithfully,

Julie stanhope

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