

Mr
1 Copper Beeches
Thundersley
Essex SS7 3UA

Date: 17th October 2013
Our Reference: TPO/3/91
Please ask for Robert Davis on
Ext:2285

Dear Sir/Madam,

1 COPPER BEECHES, THUNDERSLEY, ESSEX

I refer to your email of 14th October 2013 and the attached report by Arbtech Consulting Limited regarding the Beech tree at the above property, which is infected with *Meripilus giganteus*.

I note that following an inspection of the tree the consultant's recommendation is that the tree should be removed and a replacement specimen provided. The County Tree Officer has advised me that he concurs with the report's findings and conclusion.

Given the proximity of the tree to the highway, and the potential for serious injury to passersby should it suffer wind throw from its decaying roots, I regret that I have no alternative but to agree to its removal.

In these circumstances I consider that the above works fall under Section 198 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and may proceed without the need for the formal consent of the Local Planning Authority to be first obtained.

I would draw your attention to Section 206 of the Act which places a duty under these circumstances for a replacement tree to be planted unless the local planning authority dispenses with this requirement. In this particular case I consider that a replacement tree should be provided.

My tree Officer will be happy to discuss the size and a suitable location for the tree in due course. However, October and November is an ideal time for such planting and I would therefore suggest that it is in your best interest to discuss this matter with him promptly. A replacement tree should in any event be planted by the end of the current planting season (March).

I understand that you have a tree surgeon booked to remove the tree on Saturday 19th October 2013. I would suggest that you notify the neighbours of the forthcoming works beforehand in order to avoid the possibility of unnecessary confrontation. You may also wish to notify the Police as the Council Offices will be closed and passersby may seek to report the matter to someone in authority.

If you wish to discuss this matter further I should be grateful if you would contact Robert Davis on the above number, extension 2285.