



The Head of Planning,
Mole Valley District Council,
Pippbrook,
Dorking,
Surrey,
RH4 1SJ

Registered Office:
Bookhams Residents' Association
11 Church Road
Great Bookham
KT23 3PB

Planning correspondence by email to:
- Planning@bookhamresidents.org.uk

28th September 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

Planning Application: MO/2024/1379 1 Oakenwood, Bookham KT23 3EN

Description: Crown reduction by 2-3 metres of 2 Oak trees

We object to these proposed Tree Works as we believe no justifiable reasons have been given. Whilst these two trees are in the rear garden, they're clearly visible from the western end of Oakenwood. As they are the only trees of significance in the immediate area, they are a major part of the street scene.

TPO 107/7/R was issued in 2016 and named a specific number of trees including these 2 Oaks. These 2 trees have had significant crown reductions sometime in the past, exactly when is difficult to ascertain due to the whole area being redeveloped. The Application Form states:

- Condition is OK
- Alleged Damage to property none
- No reasons for proposed works are given.

A separate email from Glendale Countryside Ltd (their exact involvement in this matter is unclear) suggests some reasons:

- Trees in decline - perhaps they are getting confused with tree form changing as it matures.
- Deadwood - this is quite normal in mature Oaks and is in any case exempt works.
- OPM - Having OPM is no justification for felling an Oak tree (do you demolish a house because it has a wasp's nest in the attic?) Bookham is now in the "Established Area" for OPM. In our opinion it is a waste of time removing old nests. Oakenwood's proximity to Bookham Common means it is highly probable these Oak trees will get new nests every year.
- Reduce the limb weight. In our opinion the secondary growth in these 2 trees is not excessive.

Unnecessary works would incur the risks of introducing harmful pathogens and put at risk the general health of these trees.

As, in our opinion, no justifiable reasons have been given you should refuse this application.

Yours faithfully

K Whale BSc FRICS

Chairman Planning Sub Committee.

Cc Cllr Monica Weller, Cllr Elizabeth Daly, Cllr Roger Adams, Cllr Paul Kennedy, Cllr Andrew Matthews, Cllr Christine Miller, SCC Cllr Clare Curran, Alex Bagnall.