

Planning application response to DM/24/2773

This response relates specifically to “T1 – Oak tree” in this planning application.

NB. Tree T1 in this planning application equates to tree T6 on the Mid Sussex District Tree Preservation Order Map – on this map T1 refers to the Oak tree in front of the house named Boodles, directly on Malthouse Lane.

Please note that contrary to the hand drawn map associated with this application, that the T1 oak tree is just north of the direct line westwards from the back wall of Wybunbury House and not, as indicated, further south and closer to the access drive to West Park House.

I was rather shocked to recently learn of the problems with the base of the trunk on the western side of the T1 oak tree, where there is now a cavity under the tree that is large enough to be a home to a fox. No wonder we hear so much night time ‘animal screaming’ around us. This probably also suggests much deeper issues with the root system of this tree.

T1 oak tree is taller than our house and I have always had concerns about the close proximity of this tree to the back rear corner of our home, Wybunbury House and planning application 14/01216/TREE from 2014 is a case in point.

It is also worth noting that a properly constructed road-type drive to Grasmere was laid in May 2019 and I wonder what, if any, toll that took on this T1 oak tree which is directly next to that drive. There was extreme noise and vibration heard and felt inside Wybunbury House at this time, leading to various cracks and movement in the lounge and master bedroom, the rooms closest to the Grasmere drive, and round all of those windows. There were also hairline cracks in the entrance hall.

I entirely support this application to fully assess this T1 oak tree. I have absolutely no wish to severely cut back or even remove a tree unless necessary, because trees are such a valuable resource. However, the prevailing wind is from the west so I am even more concerned now that considering the discovered issue below ground with this tree - plus the trunk apparently sounding hollow - that appropriate action should be taken now. Otherwise I fear the catastrophe of the tree being blown over towards/on our house, especially when it is in full leaf and because of the underground problems of the tree, what the consequential insurance implications will be if appropriate remedial action in relation to T1 oak tree is not taken now.

Picture attachments:

- 1 – T1 oak + proximity to the rear corner of Wybunbury House
- 2 – T1 oak from Grasmere drive