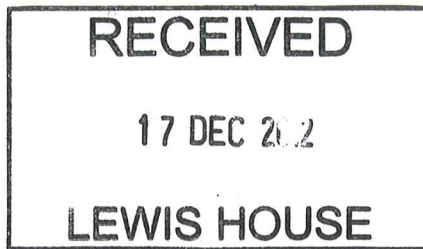


Ms Jane Brewer
Senior Arboricultural Officer
Environment Team
Planning Services



17 The Linleys
Audley Park
Bath BA1 2XE
December 8, 2012

Town and Country Planning Act 1990
Bath and North East Somerset District Council (17 The Linleys, Bath no 279)
Tree Preservation Order 2012

Dear Ms Brewer,

Thank you for your letter of December 3 advising me that you had received a letter from the residents of 40 Edward Street objecting to the above Tree Preservation Order and that these objections will need to be considered by the Development Control Committee in due course where members will decide whether to confirm the Tree Preservation Order or not.

When I purchased 17 The Linleys in 1986, I was delighted to learn that there were tree preservation orders protecting the venerable ash and two walnuts on the property, as also those trees growing on the central island. These trees, planted long before the modern houses were built, are a haven for many birds, bestow a special grandeur on the area and provide a character in keeping with the ancient heritage of the city of Bath. Audley Park is graced with many old houses surrounded by gardens containing fine trees and would lose much of its attraction without them. I am also responsible for the fence on the right-hand side of the property and for the boundary stone wall at the back, another original feature.

A city without trees is deprived of its natural lungs. Threatened by the pollution arising from increased traffic in the environment, trees help to maintain the chemical balance and preserve health in the population. Beauty and practicality are equal partners. Bath is blessed with some splendid parks under the care of the Council but individual citizens need also to play their part.

Obviously old trees need to be kept in good condition with regular maintenance and judicious pruning and this has been done consistently in my garden. It can be argued that the large root system helps to hold together the sloping land of the site and creates stability. Earlier this year a major prune was carried out by Gary Rowlands of Greenman Environmental Management Ltd., a respected local company with whom I have always dealt. The owner of any property on which such trees grow is naturally expected to provide due care, as well as being sensitive to the feelings of his immediate neighbours. Indeed, I had thought all was well after this recent pruning when the Selways kindly sent me a letter on July 13, 2012: "We are very pleased with the work carried out on the ash tree; it has made a tremendous difference to our garden." Good relations amongst people are vital and a mark of civilized behaviour; it is such a shame that they now have new misgivings.

The advent of Chalara Fraxinea has brought a new concern with regard to the ash tree in the garden. Whether or not it will be affected cannot at the moment be known but I will obviously be awaiting the appearance of spring with considerable attention. Should the tree be infected, expert advice will be sought as to the best way to proceed, though it is to be expected that a tree of this size would take time to succumb. It is understood that some trees appear to have built up an immunity, in which case the surviving ones would undoubtedly become even more valuable and worthy of preservation.

It is to be hoped that Bath and North East Somerset Council will continue to provide the trees of the city with the protection offered by the Tree Preservation Order and so ensure all the benefits it offers will not be erased.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Mavis V Harwood