

21 Moat Farm
Royal Tunbridge Wells
Kent
TN2 5XG

8th November 2020

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Stephen Baughen
Planning Services
Town Hall
Tunbridge Wells
TN1 1RS

Tree Preservation Order 0031/2020/TPO

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to object to the above TPO affecting our property.

To give the history of this tree as it affects us, in February of this year, my wife and I looked at 21 Moat Farm with a view to purchasing it. On viewing day, we asked the estate agent if there were any restrictions on the tree which could determine what could be done with it. The agent did not know so a few days later I phoned the tree officer, Jeff Mashburn, and after a lengthy conversation he stated that there was no TPO in effect and we were free to do whatever we wanted. Based on his statement, we went ahead and spent a not inconsiderable amount of money and purchased 21 Moat Farm.

Then in July, after taking possession of the property, I again phoned Jeff Mashburn to confirm our position with the tree. After another lengthy conversation with him, he confirmed there was no TPO and he also stated that he would not raise one just to stop any work on the tree.

Then out of the blue, I received a phone call from him a few weeks ago stating that the council had made a mistake in 1985 and identified the wrong tree on the original order and it should have been our tree on the order.

We both feel that the tree officer has given us totally misleading and inaccurate information, not once but twice, regarding the oak tree and feel that this misinformation gives us a good case to have the order rescinded.

We are now in the position of having a very large tree blocking light to our front garden and rendering the space unusable due to the tree canopy leaving this area in constant shade. I have had two independent tree surgeons look at the tree and they have both stated that in their opinion the tree has no amenity value at all. Now that the leaves have fallen, it is plainly obvious that the tree has been poorly maintained in the past with several split branches, hacked off branches and a lot of dead wood being very evident.

We see no advantage in keeping this tree in its current state, it needs serious work to clean it up and ideally needs removing and replaced with a more appropriate tree or trees more suited to a garden location. The area around Moat Farm has many mature oaks and other hardwood species and the loss of one poor specimen will have no major impact to the greenery of the area.

Regards,

Mr and Mrs N Holmes

