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Planning Policy & Environment Manager Maidstone Borough Council Directorate of Development & Community Services PO Box 249 Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ

PROPERTY GROUP

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Ask For: Peter Smith

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Our Ref: 406/134/10

Date: 17 December 2009

Dear Sir/Madam

Ulcombe Tree Preservation Order no. 27 of 2009 – Tree at Ulcombe Primary School, The Street, Ulcombe

I am writing to advise you that it is the intention of the Kent County Council & Ulcombe Church of England Primary School to dispose of a remote playing field near the School.

The land in discussion has only had irregular use between 2002 to 2006 as part of an 'Adventure Playground'. This land contains a tree that has very recently been shown to be worthy of a Tree Preservation Order.

I think that you should be aware that the proceeds generated by the sale of this land will enable improvements to the school's facilities helping both the children, staff and community. These improvements come in the form of an extension, which will include a new library. The library could be made available for community meetings, adult education and an area for the Police Community Support Officer.

The proposal involves the disposal of the 924sq m remote playing field, leaving 5,497sq m of land for school use.

The Dawn Redwood Tree although a 'mature tree', is not a native tree to this County and would offer very little amenity value to the local area when compared with the proposed improvements at the school. Kent County Council would be willing to plant a native tree within the school grounds to compensate for the loss of the Dawn Redwood tree.

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Planning Policy & Environment Manager Maidstone Borough Council

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The protection of this tree would suppress huge benefits for the school, local residents and community users to enjoy. I therefore ask that the decision to protect this one tree is reversed and the benefits of this small development can be promoted to the whole community.

Yours faithfully

Peter Smith

Graduate Surveyor