

## **APPENDIX A**

objection

APPENDIX A

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8/12/11  
PF.

**12 Ashdown Close, Maidstone, Kent ME16 8AD**

**Team Leader**

Landscape, Conservation & Design  
Maidstone Borough Council  
Maidstone House  
King Street, Maidstone ME15 6JQ

RECORDED DELIVERY

Re: Tree Preservation Order No. 19 of 2011: Tree at rear of 12 Ashdown Close, Maidstone ME16 8AD

This letter refers only to the tree at No 12 Ashdown Close, labelled as T1 on your plan accompanying the Order. I am the owner occupier of the above premises and am writing to register my objections to this Order in relation to the single tree at this property.

The whole area is very well wooded. In respect of tree T1 the statement that it makes a valuable contribution to the character and amenity of the area is open to contradiction. It stands apart from T2 and T3, which appear to be in fair condition and which are close to each other and to other fir and deciduous trees. T1 is separate, intervening trees having fallen. This is shown on the enclosed photographs. The TPO gives undue weight to an environmental argument and fails to consider the effect on the occupant and owner.

T1 is not in good condition; there are no remaining branches on the lower half of the tree. Above that, some branches appear to be dead and branches sometimes fall from the tree. Although not a danger, dead pine needles fall in profusion and frequently cause blockages to gutters and drains which I am personally not able to deal with.

T1 is a potential hazard to persons and property. It is approximately 19 metres in height and only 12.5 metres from my house. In the event of the tree or part of it falling, severe damage would be inevitable as the enclosed photographs illustrate. In illustration of the potential hazard, on a previous occasion of severe weather an identical pine tree, also on this property, came down, trapping my husband and myself in the house and causing extensive damage to garden and fencing and structural damage to this house and the adjacent house at No 10 Ashdown Close where it struck within 1 metre of the occupants at the time. Since the possibility of harsh weather conditions and consequent damage or injury cannot be excluded and Maidstone Borough Council takes no responsibility and provides no compensation for damage or injury to property or persons, the issue of a tree preservation order on tree T1 is unreasonable.

MBC have not found it necessary to issue a TPO in respect of T1 during the 49 years since this house was built but have now done so without discussion with me as owner. I am 88 years of age, a widow, living alone with no family nearer than 100 miles, endeavouring to keep my independence and maintain my property, to the best of my means. In view of the potential hazard to me and my home, the constant anxiety and stress and the maintenance aspects, I request that the Tree Preservation Order 19 of 2011 be cancelled in respect of T1 and not renewed, leaving decisions concerning the tree to me as owner and the person most affected by it. I am very conscious and considerate of environmental matters but consider the basis of the tree preservation order to be unfounded and unbalanced in respect of T1.

Yours faithfully  
(Mrs) Betty Sheldon

*Betty Sheldon*

REF Correspondence?	
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29 NOV 2011	(init)
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