

Letter of support of Mr I Jones at 32 Fen Road (by email)

1. **Rare and very old tree.** The tree is one of the largest and oldest trees in the village and on that basis alone affords it the right to remain. The tree is currently in very good condition and health. It has become a haven for wildlife supporting a number of squirrel families. This tree is a key component to the small 'eco system' at the bottom of my garden where a number of trees have created a small wood. My continued efforts over the years to maintain and preserve this eco system have led to the recent arrival of owls which are a welcome addition to the many other species of wildlife supported here.
2. **The tree is not within a conservation area** This tree does not reside within a conservation area and therefore without this TPO would have no future protection what so ever including protection from deliberate vandalism whilst the property is vacant.
3. **Risk of Heave :** The tree's root system will be vast and will no doubt be underneath many properties . The removal of the tree will certainly over the coming years cause major 'Heave' to surrounding properties due to the very close proximity of the tree to these buildings. (we have shingle within the subsoil.) This view was supported by a tree surgeon when I was having my trees pollarded recently and a constructional engineer I employed during my house renovation in 2001. The tree is less than 2 metres from my office and less than a metre from my garage and 20 metres from my house.
4. **Exposure of back buildings** My house has been burgled a number of times in the past. This tree effectively camouflages my outbuildings from the outside world. The removal of the tree would greatly expose my outbuildings enabling easy access and increasing the risk of theft/burglary and my right to privacy.

To address the specific points raised:

- *"Restriction of the rights of the new owners to undertake tree work"*
 - o This is not the case as an agreed amount of pollarding can take place on a TPO tree. I would support this
- *"Leaves and conkers causing nuisance"*
 - o True, however this is a perfectly normal minor seasonal inconvenience of which approximately 50% of leaves and conkers fall on my land. If this was a plausible justification for the removal of the tree then we would have no horse chestnut trees left in the UK!
- *"Horse Chestnut Leaf Miner moth making the tree look unsightly"*
 - o The tree is in fantastic condition and health however as per all horse chestnuts it suffers from the leaf decolourisation caused by moths (this is seasonal)
- *"Branches may break off causing damage"*
 - o This has not happened in the past 14 years and unlikely to cause damage to no 36 as there is nothing there to be damaged . Only on my side is there a likelihood for damage to be caused
- *"Questionable amenity value of the tree bearing in mind the presence of a large number of other trees"*
 - o Many trees have no amenity value however this has historical value to the village and huge environmental value to the local wildlife.