



From: Stephen King [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 June 2021 16:09
To: Cathy Davidson <Cathy.Davidson@northtyneside.gov.uk>
Cc: Bev [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Re : Letter dated 22nd June ref TPO @ 20 Hillheads Road, NE25 8HS

EXTRNL

Ms Davidson

I attempted to ring you today to discuss this, but unfortunately was unable to obtain any answer.

I wish to complain in the strongest possible terms at the way that NT Council have handled this matter which arises from a simple email from myself, containing an equally simple question. That question being, does a tree on the property at 20 Hillheads Road have a Tree Preservation Order CURRENTLY in existence on it.

I did not receive and have still not received any response to my email either written or verbally.

Imagine then, our surprise and frankly total disbelief when a letter is delivered to 20 Hillheads Road, stating that a temporary 6 month TPO has now been slapped on the tree.

Incidentally , the simple answer to my question, which was only confirmed by Dave Parkin (in the email below) after I attempted to ring him, was, **NO, there was not a TPO in place.**

The substance of my initial email was that the tree is causing damage to the property and that has been completely ignored.

Why then have you seen fit, in what I can only assume is some sort of bureaucratic lunacy, decided arbitrarily to place a TPO on a tree that the Council had not previously, in all it's year of existence (the tree) , shown not a jot of interest ?

Why have you in one fell swoop made the whole matter from our side, bureaucratically complicated, more expensive and extremely frustrating and annoying ?

Not to mention the complete waste of precious council resources dealing with an issue that did not previously exist ?

1. As I have already stated, nobody responded to my initial email , WHY Not ?
2. Who looked at the tree and where from ? Why was the homeowner not engaged as part of that process ?
3. Dave Parkin states that the responsibility for maintenance of the tree lays with the land owner, Who is that exactly ?
If that is deemed to be the homeowner, then you have actually stopped the land owner doing exactly what you say they have the responsibility to do.
4. If I had simply not bothered to ask you (the council) the question in the first place we could have simply had the tree removed without any fuss or comeback from anyone.
Something I now severely regret not doing.

Finally I must state that we are not in the habit of just wanting to remove a perfectly healthy tree for no reason.

If it wasn't so close to the house and quite obviously causing damage to the fabric of the property, the issue wouldn't have been raised and we could all get on with our lives.

Unfortunately that's not the case and the current state of the property caused by the tree would (if we were in that position) severely affect it's value and resale potential.

It is also blocking out light and the canopy is reaching over the roof, which if a branch were to break would likely cause significant damage.

At the very least we require either yourself or one of your officials to attend the house to view the tree from within the property, at a time when we can also be present.

Please let me know when that can be arranged.

In the meantime we will be submitting a full written objection to Dave Parkin against the TPO being made permanent.

Yours
Stephen King

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Dave Parkin](#)
Sent: 25 June 2021 08:54
To: [Stephen King](#)
Subject: RE: Re : Letter dated 22nd June ref TPO @ 20 Hillheads Road, NE25 8HS

Dear Mr King

Thank you for your email and telephone call. I tried to return your call yesterday afternoon but was unsuccessful.

You are correct that when you say that when you enquired about whether the tree was protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) there was no Order in place. As a result of your enquiry the authority's landscape architect had a look at the tree and decided that it warranted being protected because of its amenity value. A TPO was therefore created and you were notified of the making of the TPO which is why you had received the letter you referred to.

If you wish to discuss your concerns about the tree the landscape architect, Cathy Davidson, can be contacted on 0191 643 6729 or via email on Cathy.Davidson@northtyneside.gov.uk.

The responsibility for the tree and its maintenance remains with the landowner, whether or not the tree is protected by a tree preservation order. If works are required to the tree an application can be made to the authority for permission to undertake works to a protected tree, further details on the process are available on the authority's website <https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/1154/tree-preservation-orders> or from the planning department development.control@northtyneside.gov.uk or by telephone (0191) 643 2310.

Regards

Dave

Dave Parkin

Democratic Services Officer
Law and Governance
[North Tyneside Council](#).

Tel: (0191) 643 5316



From: Stephen King [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 June 2021 11:45
To: Dave Parkin <Dave.Parkin@northtyneside.gov.uk>
Cc: Bev [REDACTED]
Subject: Re : Letter dated 22nd June ref TPO @ 20 Hillheads Road, NE25 8HS

EXTRNL
Mr Parkin

I am writing following receipt of letter dated 22nd June in the name of Dave Brown, which lists yourself as dealing with the matter. I have tried ringing you but was only able to reach a voicemail for the extension.

Specifically, I am puzzled as to why has this letter has been sent ?

If you read my original email to Stephen Forsten (copied below), you will see that I asked IF a TPO currently existed on the tree on the property and if so, we need someone from the council to survey it.

It would seem that the answer, given the contents the letter of 22nd, was NO, there was no TPO.

Given that, why have the council now seen fit to create such an order and what implications does that have for the maintenance of the tree and responsibility for damage it has and is, causing to the property ?

If you can get back to me asap on this, I would be grateful as there are other questions that flow from the letter which I would like to discuss.

Thanks

Stephen King



Stephen King

Mon 14/06/2021 11:55

To: Stephen.Forsten@northtyneside.gov.uk

Cc: Bev

Hi Stephen

I have been given your name as someone who may be able to help with an enquiry I have regarding a tree on a property in Whitley Bay.

First of all I am trying to ascertain if a large tree, growing on a property at 20 Hillheads Road, Whitley Bay, NE25 8HS, has a Tree Protection order in place on it.

The reason for this request is that the tree is growing very close to the property and it's roots are causing damage to the ground close to the house and the canopy is now spreading over the roof.

If there is a TPO in place, we will need someone from the council to come and survey the tree and advise what can be done to resolve the damage to the ground around it and if the tree can actually be removed. Hopefully you would be able to arrange such a visit if necessary.

If there is no TPO in place I assume we are free to take what ever action we deem necessary.

Best regards

Stephen King

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10



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