

THE CITY OF DURHAM TRUST

c/o Blackett, Hart & Pratt, LLP
Aire House
Mandale Business Park
Belmont
Durham, DH1 1TH

21 March 2024

Dear Ms Outhwaite,

DM/23/03853/TPO 3 Woodland Close Bearpark Durham DH7 7EB

25%-33% reduction of two oak trees at the rear of the property. - TPO-PN1-317

1. The Trust is pleased that the proposal is no longer to fell the trees, however, it objects to the work now proposed. This is based on the importance of the trees and lack of evidence to justify the substantial reduction proposed.

Context

2. Woodland Close is a new development inserted into a copse of mature trees. These are important for the surrounding open space, the setting to the Close and as a division between blocks of development. They are also important for Bearpark more generally as well as having wildlife value.

Proposal and Impact

3. There is no evidence submitted justifying the work. The trees show signs of needing some tree work on broken branches and limited crown reshaping or reduction may also prove beneficial. However, drastic crown reduction such as that proposed without explanation could be over the whole of the tree. This would result in more dense growth and potentially a poor crown shape. The Trust is not reassured by the quality of the submitted information that needs to explain why the work is required and to minimise the impact on the trees' appearance.

4. The Trust remains aware of and sympathetic to the anxiety caused by concern about trees in relation to buildings, but it continues to be concerned that allowing this application to substantially reduce the trees will be regarded as a precedent to similarly treat others in this grouping.

Yours sincerely

John Lowe

Chair, City of Durham Trust