



GREENSLEEVES ESTATE AND COUNTRYSIDE MANAGEMENT

Miles Millwood
Planning Enforcement Officer
Directorate For Planning, Growth and Sustainability
The Gateway
Gatehouse Road
Aylesbury
HP19 HFF

17th September 2021
Your Ref 21/00380/CONA

Dear Mr Millwood

**Unauthorised works to a tree in a conservation area
4 Main Street Shalstone Buckingham MK18 5LX**

I have been an Arborist for 20+ years and have been asked by Mr Purefoy, the owner of No 3 and 4, to provide a professional view on the tree, a Leylandii, part of which failed and fell from the neighbouring garden into No 4 a few weeks ago.

I visited the site shortly after the limb fell to assess the situation and feel that the tree failed due to a combination of factors set out below.

1. Leaf fall detritus build-up between the limbs has created rot and this in turn had weakened the branch. Referring to the attached photos one can clearly see the dark staining, caused by ingress of water, and roots indicating an historic crack which has slowly expanded over time.
2. The tree is in an elevated and exposed situation on the hill with no wind break from other nearby trees.
3. The tree is reaching its maturity and will, likely without warning, shed more limbs in the future.
4. With regard to the roots, which had been disturbed in digging the garage foundations just before the fall, I do not believe that this would have had material impact on the tree prior to the limb failing. The ground works for the garage occurred only a few weeks prior to the limb fall, the client advised they had dug trial pits prior to excavation and those trial pits did not identify significant roots within the area of the dig. My inspection did not identify significant root damage and I do not believe the tree would have reacted this quickly to the excavation that occurred.

As a conclusion, in my opinion, this was storm damage caused by high winds to the tree reaching maturity and with pre existing rot and weakness.

I would recommend that it either be reduced in size or removed completely as I deem it unsafe left as it is.

I am happy to meet with the Tree Officer on site to discuss further if required.

Regards



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