

Apartment 8
Aldenbrook
Sunny Bank Road
Helmshore
Rossendale
BB4 4 FE

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28th March 2022

Rossendale BC Planning Department

Dear Sir/Madam,

Proposed Felling of Four Trees at Aldenbrook

I have recently been appointed a director of Alden Place Management Company Ltd. This company is responsible for making sure the Aldenbrook site - with 37 residential apartments - is well maintained. I have specific responsibility for fire and safety matters because I previously worked as an inspector for the Health and Safety Executive. I also have ten years experience of working with trees for ten years as a volunteer with the National Trust in the Lake District.

There are approximately 60 mature trees of varying species around our site boundary. This includes about 12 ash trees that are, to varying degrees, unfortunately suffering from dieback disease.

I became concerned about the ash trees when I moved to Aldenbrook two years ago. When I became a director last year I asked my friend and former workmate to visit and give us the benefit, informally, of his opinion. He is the National Trust's Woodland Ranger for South Lakeland and has extensive first hand knowledge of Ash Dieback Disease. He recommended the three ash trees nearest Free Lane be felled.

On 17th September 2021 one of my Co-directors met by chance a man - Russell Pearce an arboricultural consultant - who was examining our trees and taking photographs. He explained that he surveying ash trees that potentially threatened public highways for Lancashire CC. He told my colleague informally that he would be recommending that our three ash trees nearest Free Lane be felled. I have written to LCC requesting confirmation of this recommendation but have not yet had any response. We are increasingly concerned at this continuing delay.

Last week I asked our tree surgeon - Mark Tabener from Belmont Tree Surgeons for his opinion whilst he was doing other work on our site. He confirmed that his opinion was the same as the previous two. He also identified a honey fungus infection at the base of a nearby horse chestnut tree and recommended that this too be felled.

An application to fell these four trees is therefore enclosed. I would very much appreciate a meeting on site to discuss this application with your officer. I would also welcome an opportunity for a more general discussion about the longer term management of our trees.


Alden Place Management Company Ltd.