



The Head of Planning,  
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19<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Dear Sir,

**Planning Application:** MO/2024/1196  
**Location:** 62 The Park, Bookham, KT23 3LL  
**Description:** Tree Works - Oak tree fell to the ground.  
**Case Officer:** Jordan Guenigault.

We strongly object to the proposed felling to the ground of this Oak tree. I have taken guidance from our tree specialist Committee Member in reaching this position.

The tree in question is a veteran Oak with an estimated age in excess of 260 years. It is beginning to take on the gnarly characteristics of an ancient Oak. It is a tree of high significance and of importance to the locality for public amenity, historical and cultural reasons. The significance and environmental importance of this tree is far more than just carbon capture.

This is a long-running saga that dates back to 2005 (MO/2005/0680) with underpinning work being carried out in 2006 to which MVDC contributed. The most recent previous tree works application was MO/2023/0006. The Tree Officers report gives a detailed analysis of the history of this matter. As far as we are aware these approved tree works have not been carried out.

The RPTS report states the subsidence is very slight classified as category 1. In view of this the total felling of this tree would appear to be an unnecessarily drastic measure.

We are aware that in cases of subsidence that case law favours property over trees. However, we would hope that we are now living in a more environmentally enlightened era. We can only ask that common sense prevails, and a compromise solution can be found that does not require the total removal of this tree.

Yours faithfully

K Whale BSc FRICS  
Chairman Planning Sub Committee.

Cc Cllr Monica Weller, Cllr Elizabeth Daly, Cllr Roger Adams, Cllr Paul Kennedy, Cllr Andrew Matthews, Cllr Christine Miller, SCC Cllr Clare Curran, Alex Bagnall.