

Monmouth County Council  
County Hall, The Rhadyr  
Usk, Monmouthshire  
NP15 1GA FAO Mr Keech

Tree Preservation order number MCC289

Date 12/04/2021

Letter of Objection From Mr A C Havard

Dear Mr Keech

I am writing to object to the tree preservation order number MCC289 placed on 4 trees and a tree stump at well farm Grosmont with effect from 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

The Well farm has been in the family for the last 60 years. Apart from trimming lower branches off trees to allow machinery to pass underneath without damage and cutting up fallen trees, no other trees have been felled in the last 30 years. We have a chestnut plantation at Well farm planted 40 years ago and we have planted 5 acres of trees in the last 20 years at Brooklands farm where I live.

We do not cut down trees without reason.

T1 was cut down legally and with good reason, photo's attached on email.

I own T1 which is now a stump on the preservation order that over hung Greig View lawn, which I also own but rent out. For the safety of my tenant, I decided to make sure the tree was safe as it was overhanging an area of their garden. There are also power lines across the gardens making the risk of injury higher. As a farmer working in a very dangerous industry we have to make health and safety decisions every day. The tree was a Y shape with a short trunk and having seen trees of the same shape split and fall on Well farm previously, I decided to make the tree safe. Whilst removing branches, a large hole was confirmed in the bottom end of the limb overhanging the grass. I intended to remove the stump at a later date.

Whilst clearing the branches a local councillor ( name can be given ) arrived on site, with very inaccurate information, no face mask or hard hat and insisted I stop work immediately as I had cut down a tree in a conservation area with a TPO on it.

A neighbour had reported me to him.

By checking on Google for Grosmont conservation area, a map is shown of the area and clearly the tree is outside the area. The councillor later text me saying I may be in breach by not having a license to fell the branches and I should not do any more work on the stump. He said he would keep me informed.

I believe this was a tactic to stop work while he the councillor and his friend, the neighbour could organise a preservation order for the stump which clearly has a hole in it.

As for trees T2,3,4 and 5 I have no intention of cutting them down, we may need to trim lower branches in the future for machinery but I do not want to have to apply to the Council to do so as we have managed the soil, hedges and trees at Well farm responsibly for the last 60 years.

All trees have a visual amenity to any landscape, but they have to be managed.

I was not consulted and I believe a Council representative has been walking across private property as they asked the tenant questions, they could of contacted me.

You cannot see the state of the stump from the floor as I had to use a ladder to climb up to take the pictures.

To sum up, I believe T1 will die and be an eyesore and should be removed as intended and T2,3,4 and 5 do not need a preservation order just because I have been accused of a cutting down one tree for no reason.

I would appreciate a receipt to this letter please.

Regards

Mr Andrew Havard

A thick, black horizontal bar redacting the signature of Mr. Andrew Havard.

Owner of Well Farm and Greig view Bungalow.