

**P/14/0005/TO [O]**

**FAREHAM WEST**

MRS CONNIE HOCKLEY

AGENT: MRS CONNIE HOCKLEY

FELL ONE OAK PROTECTED BY TPO 629

27 HEATH LAWNS FAREHAM HAMPSHIRE PO15 5QB

***Report By***

Paul Johnston - extn.4451

***Site Description***

This application relates to an oak tree situated within the rear garden of 27 Heath Lawns, a property situated on the north side of Heath Lawns and south of Southmead Road.

***Description of Proposal***

Consent is sought to fell one oak protected by TPO 629.

***Policies***

The following policies apply to this application:

**Fareham Borough Local Plan Review**

DG4 - Site Characteristics

***Relevant Planning History***

The following planning history is relevant:

**P/10/0998/TO CARRY OUT WORKS TO OAK TREE COVERED BY FTPO 629**  
CONSENT 09/12/2010

**P/10/0654/TO FELL OAK TREE COVERED BY FTPO 629**  
REFUSE 17/09/2010

**P/07/0387/TO SHORTEN BRANCH WORK ON S.W. SIDE  
OF CROWN BY 2 METRES, CROWN RAISE  
TO 5 METRES, RESHAPE & CROWN CLEAN  
OAK TREE COVERED BY HTP087**  
CONSENT 17/05/2007

**P/03/0925/TO Crown Thin and Balance and Crown Raise by 2 Metres Oak Tree  
Covered by HTP0 087**  
CONSENT 17/07/2003

**P/01/0588/TO Works to Oak Tree Covered by H.T.P.O.87**  
CONSENT 12/07/2001

***Representations***

Two representations have been received.

One representaton supports the works, raising concern that the tree is too close to the house,creates excessive shading and may fail in bad weather.

One representation objects to the felling as it was felt a reveiw of the trees needed to take

place.

### ***Planning Considerations - Key Issues***

The application oak tree is one of thirteen mature trees situated in rear gardens of properties on the north side of Heath Lawns. The oak at 27 Heath Lawns is positioned centrally in the rear garden and is the western most tree in a contiguous group of nine trees with merged crowns. The oak, along with the adjacent mature trees are prominent in the landscape and form part of an historic field boundary running east west along north boundary of the Heath Lawns development. These trees significantly predate the surrounding residential development and remain an important landscape feature that dominates the skyline. The application tree is visible from several public vantage points to the north and south; and make a significant contribution to the surrounding landscape character and planning context.

Tree preservation orders seek to protect trees in the interest of public amenity, therefore it follows that the removal of a protected tree should only be sanctioned where its public amenity value is outweighed by other considerations.

At the time of inspection the oak was observed to be healthy and no significant visible defects or abnormalities were evident that may have an adverse impact on its health and safety.

It is appreciated that the amount of noise and movement associated with trees during high winds can be unnerving, however, the perceived threat of failure should not be a basis for tree pruning or removal. All trees pose some degree of risk, but in this case there is nothing to suggest that the subject tree poses any undue level of risk. There are no guarantees of absolute safety in the event of severe adverse weather conditions, since all assessments should be undertaken for normal conditions and not try to speculate about what might happen in the event of severe or abnormal weather events.

The reasons given for felling the oak are not sufficient to demonstrate that this tree poses an undue level of threat to the safety of the owner or their neighbours and are therefore insufficient to justify its removal.

The proposed tree works are considered to be contrary to Policy DG4 of the Fareham Borough Local Plan Review in that they would represent poor arboricultural practice for which there is insufficient justification. Furthermore the suggested tree works would be detrimental to the health and appearance of the trees and their resultant public amenity value, harmful to the visual amenities and to the character of the area.

### ***Recommendation***

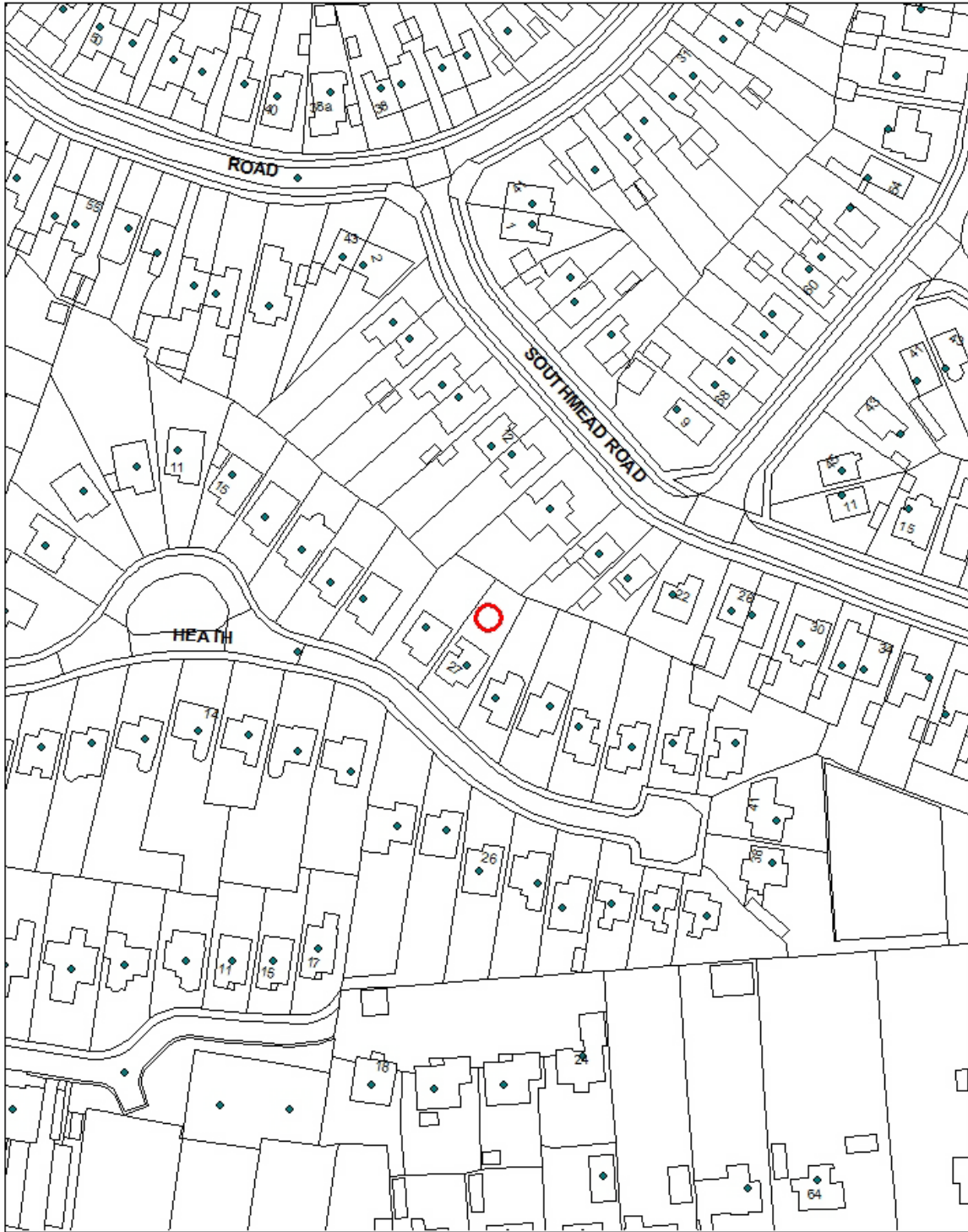
REFUSE: Insufficient arboricultural evidence, harmful to visual amenities and character of the area.

### ***Background Papers***

Please see Planning History above.

# FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL



27 Heath Lawns  
Scale 1:1250



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