



Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath (KDBH)

Neighbourhood Forum

Response to Planning Application: PL/2021/00205/TPO 225

225 Mill Lane, Bentley Heath, B93 8NU

Fell 1 No. Oak Tree at Front Right Hand Corner of Property

FAO: Lou Randall, Case Officer

The Knowle Dorridge and Bentley Heath Neighbourhood Forum understands that the Dorridge and District Residents Association has raised concerns about this application. The Forum wishes to support their comments.

The Forum is concerned at the steady loss of mature trees throughout the Neighbourhood Area. For this reason, Policy NE1 of the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to protect trees which are important in the street scene; and Policy VC5 recognises the importance of green streets in our Neighbourhood. Whilst we appreciate that there is no new development involved here, these policies underpin the importance attributed to trees and greenery in the character of the KDBH Area.

Mill Lane is characterised by mature oak trees, but a number in the vicinity of this property have been felled. This tree is located on a gentle bend in a visually prominent position and contributes greatly to the amenity of the area. It does not appear to be a danger to forward visibility. It is subject to a TPO and should therefore be protected unless it is dead and/or a danger to the public. It should not be removed just because it is an inconvenience.

The Forum notes that the applicant refers to the poor condition of the tree. We would ask that a qualified arboriculturalist visits the site to assess the tree and determine if its removal is necessary. If the expert opinion is that no other action (such as lopping or topping) is suitable and that it should be felled, we would ask that replacement planting is undertaken. This is necessary bearing in mind that the applicant refers to 5 other trees that have already been felled along this part of Mill Lane.

The Forum requests that these comments are taken into account in determining this application.

Jane Aykroyd
Chair
Knowle Dorridge and Bentley Heath Neighbourhood Forum