

Cllr Patricia Brown  
Priestwood & Garth  
[REDACTED]

30<sup>th</sup> March 2012

To the Planning Committee:

I am writing in support of Mr & Mrs Heynes, of [REDACTED] Moordale Avenue, who have appealed to the Council (in support of their neighbours) for permission to remove a fairly mature Monterey Pine tree from the neighbours' garden at no. [REDACTED]

The Monterey Pine stands against the boundary to the Heynes' garden. Back in September, on a clear, still day, there was a loud crack from the tree. The neighbours at [REDACTED] Moordale came running out of their house to see what had happened, as they said they thought the whole tree might have come down.

Actually it was a large branch. Luckily there was nobody near the tree at the time, but only the day before, Mr Heynes had been working there, where the branch fell. The branch is three or four metres long, and it brought down the end of another smaller branch, encrusted with large tightly closed cones, that seems to have died off and was ready to snap.

Mr & Mrs Heynes would like to invite the members of the Planning Committee to look at the fallen branches and the tree at the next available site visit.

It can be seen that the tightly packed branches in the canopy are criss-crossing, and damage to other branches can be seen where as the wind agitates the tree, rubbing occurs and wears into them. It is not surprising that mature Monterey Pines are renowned for shedding branches. In 'A Field Guide to the Trees of Britain and Northern Europe', by Alan Mitchell, a respected book on trees, it says Monterey Pines: "May shed big branches, laden with whorls of old cones in snow or gales."

This one shed the branch on a still day.

Mr and Mrs Heynes are nervous about working in the garden, and are very worried about their grandchildren playing in the garden.

If it were possible to manage this tree by pruning the canopy, I'm sure that the Heynes's would consider this. But the tight way the branches are packed into the enormous canopy make this an unrealistic proposition.

The tree was grown by accidental planting of a seed from a fascinatingly large cone, collected by Mrs Furniss about forty years ago on a holiday to Guernsey, then tossed onto the compost heap in the corner of the garden at [REDACTED] some time after her return.

Only forty years old, the tree may grow for another thirty years. It already overshadows the houses around it, and it is taller than all the other trees nearby. It was never meant to be in an urban garden. Sadly it is the wrong tree in the wrong place.

Officers have refused permission to remove the tree, as it is deemed to be an important visual amenity. The attached petition shows that local residents do not attach so much importance to the look of the tree, as to the potential danger it presents to the people who have to live with it.

Please allow the neighbours at [REDACTED] to fell this tree, and plant a more suitable replacement.