

# **SALTASH TOWN COUNCIL VOLUNTARY TREE WARDENS' REPORT**

## **PA22/07754 – 25 Grassmere Way Saltash PL12 6XE**

Firstly, the application is for works in this green finger to the mature oak T51 and not to any works to T50, an adjoining oak tree but which is referenced in the tree surgeons report. The tree T51 is not impacting upon the house or garden of 25 Grassmere but on the gardens of Badgers Walk.

Secondly, the tree surgeons report indicates substantial hollowing damage to the base of T51. There is indeed long-term interior damage but with healthy bark and sub-bark growth around it and the oak seems to have compensated for this damage by over-thickening of the trunk at the base: the damage however remains there. The tree has considerable height at about 15-17 metres and has a selection of healthy main branches and equally healthy foliage around it (viewed from the ground below with binoculars). Apart from the damage described above the rest of the tree looks substantially healthy. The tree is the highest tree in the row and has considerable amenity value for the general public viewing it. An adjoining neighbour on Badgers Walk reported wildlife in and around the tree including owls, bats and squirrels. There is a problem in that the houses on Badgers Walk were built too close to this green finger, a serious error in the planning permission for Pillmere and now growth of the upper branches is about halfway across the small gardens of Badgers Walk.

It is recommended that the tree surgeons recommendation for T51 is reasonable and as long as the pruning is restricted to the crown reducing of the north-only lateral spread by a maximum of 2 metres and reducing the height of the northern canopy by 1.5 m and keeping to the maximum size of pruning cut of 50 mm then the impact on wildlife and amenity value will not be severe and will be acceptable.

The wardens would like Saltash Town Council to note that in future planning permissions which they have to consider and which involve mature trees or hedgerows with mature trees which are likely to spread, then the footprint of adjoining planned buildings should be kept at a proper distance. This distance can be seen in the development of Church View in the narrows of Church Road where the planning correctly kept the properties well back from the mature trees, mainly oaks, on the roadsides. The council members may wish to view this for themselves and refer to this as correctly planned development distances in future permissions, especially that of a Treledan.