Re Trees at 5 Springfield Gardens

I would like to offer the following additional information and explanation to support my application.

As the owner of this property for 26 years I have made a number of applications for work on the trees in my garden; permission was granted some years ago to 'crown lift' the Ilex.

Throughout this period I was employed fulltime and until the last 2 years of good general health and mobility so the time I spent at the property and in the garden was limited. However, I retired in May 2023 and my mobility has been severely curtailed due to aggressive osteoarthritis; I have had several bone replacement operations (both thumbs and one knee) and I am awaiting a full knee replacement. I am registered disabled and a Blue Badge holder. Being unable to get 'out and about' I should be able to relax in the garden without concern or read a book indoors during daylight hours without needing a light on but sadly this is not the case due in no small way to the Ilex and Fir/Pine trees :

1. The height and width of both trees block out natural light for 5-6 hours per day

2. Branches and pine cones falling from the fir are a hazard (I have been struck several times by cones!) This is also a danger to pedestrians passing on Ashacre Lane and using the public path to the side of our building

3. Bird droppings from the variety of species that roost in both trees means I'm unable to have garden furniture out or hang my washing out to dry

4. Any flowers/bulbs/plants in the garden are decimated by the abundance of squirrels encouraged into the garden by the trees

I could also add that I can't have the windows open due to excessive bird noise (from 4AM!) and that ventilating the property is a near impossibility so causes internal damp, yet another health hazard.

In addition to the above I can't explain the level of stress caused each time there's yet another, and ever-increasing, storm and there's a real threat that the fir tree will fall down. This is a concern to all the property owners withing the vicinity of where the 30 meter plus tree might land.

My mental health has been so badly affected that selling up and moving seems the only real resolution but this isn't financially viable. I can't bear the thought of another summer being a prisoner in my own home and therefore implore you to grant permission to do whatever work is required to make my home and garden a haven in which to enjoy my retirement.

Thank you

Anne Christina Urquhart