

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2016





OAK

**VIEW FROM OUR 1st FLOOR BACK
BEDROOM, SANDFORD ROAD. WE
ARE ½ WAY BETWEEN SANDFORD
& BENNETT.**



OAK

VIEW FROM OUR LOUNGE SIDE
WINDOW (GROUND FLOOR)
SANDFORD ROAD. WE ARE ½
WAY BETWEEN SANDFORD &
BENNETT.





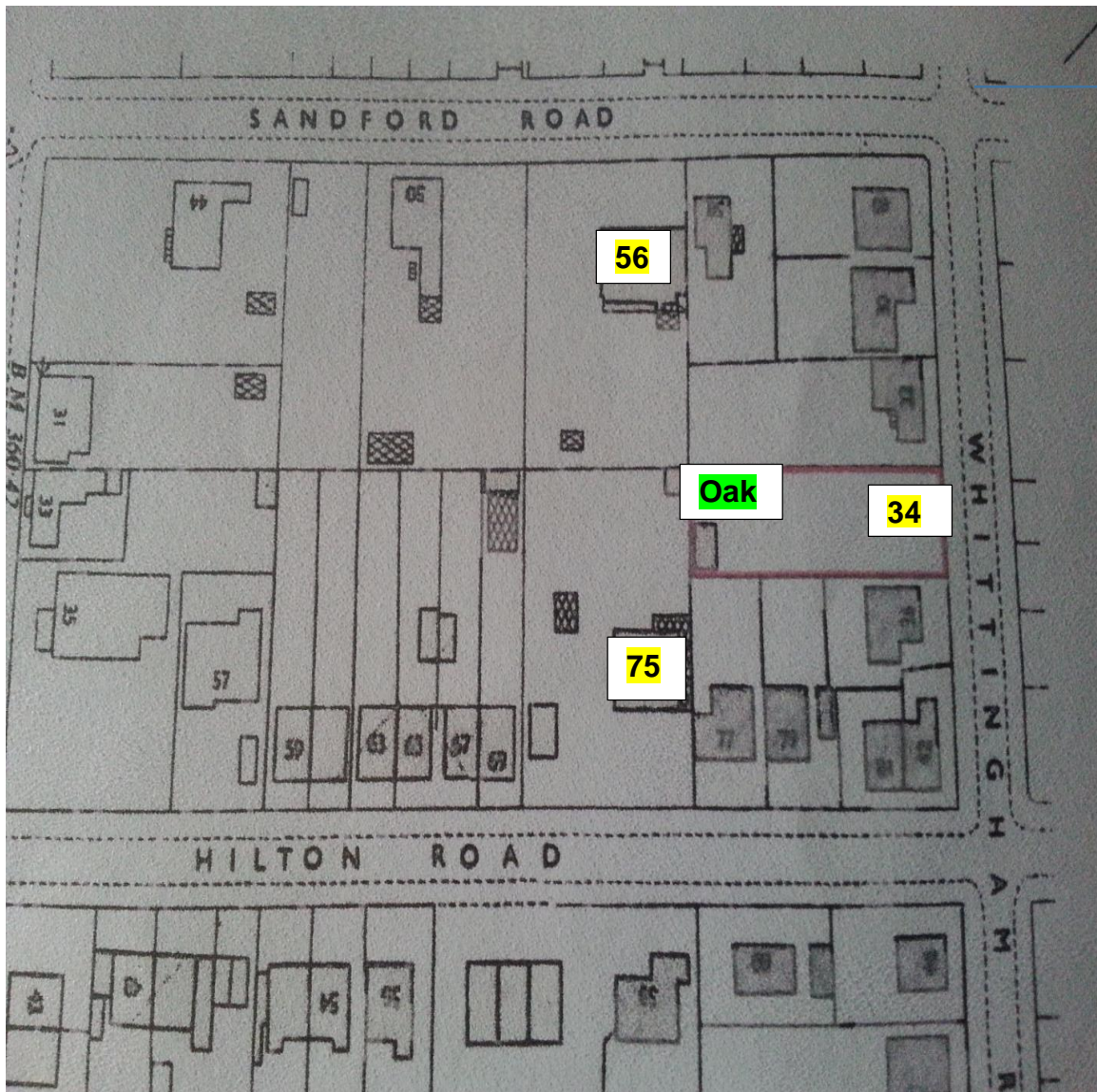






HAYWOOD ROAD


PICS
TAKEN
FROM
HERE,
SHOWING
WHEN OAK
1st COMES
INTO VIEW




68
SANDFORD
4th house
along from
junction



Purple Circles represent 56 & 68, Sandford Road & 75, Hilton Road. 

Purple Triangle represents the spot where photos were taken, just below the Haywood Road junction. 

Green Smiley is the Oak Tree. 

Red Star is 34, Whittingham Road. 

MY SPEECH FROM THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING, WEDNESDAY 20th APRIL '16

Having referred the audience to the copies of correspondence available to them, online, in preparation for the Meeting, I went straight in with picking up a point on the agenda.....

Point 2:6 ~ With respect, I have to challenge these comments date from 3rd June 2015, when the garden was overgrown. Since then 2.5k has been spent in having trees felled & pollarded & I did explain that this was going to happen. This is supported by photos, submitted with letters & emails, along the way.

The sycamore trees have been severely pollarded, as the neighbours were eager to help.

Contrary to the notes regarding the tree's visibility, it can be clearly seen from 3 streets, namely Hilton, Sandford & Whittingham, without having to stand between properties. It becomes visible from just below the Haywood/Whittingham junction, when one is next to what was Councillor Lightowler's house. Two blocks of flats, built in the Councillor's garden, benefit from seeing the oak in their eye-line, as well as many other properties. I have submitted photos. It's one of the tallest trees in quite a large area & is definitely the tallest tree in its little copse, so I was puzzled to read that it's "indefinable".

I believe its removal would have a detrimental & significant effect on the area & I strongly believe that the petition backs up this theory.

If it were in the street, or front garden, a tree of this size would likely be a nuisance with its overhanging branches & roots, plus be a structural threat to property. I believe it fulfils the visibility criteria (**under point 2:7**) where it says, *“The trees, or at least part of them, should normally be visible from a public place, such as a road, or footpath.”*

In the “giant noughts & crosses board” of the surrounding streets, it’s easy to spot the original houses on the block & visualise what land belonged to which; I live in such a house, on Sandford Road, from where I can see the oak tree. Five dwellings, in addition to our 1902 house, have been built on our house’s land. In doing so, many trees were felled, including a large orchard, which I used to pass on my way to school, when I lived on Hilton. Lots of mature trees have been felled within a small area, including some street trees, so to say he would be more worthy of a TPO if he were on the street, or in a front garden, doesn’t seem to suggest his future would be more secure than where he is, where he’s no bother to anyone, the tallest copse member in a “green living space”, to quote one neighbour’s comments, about the garden.

When the house went on the market, back in Sept, we had 32 viewings in 4 days. The agents were overwhelmed, as was I. It was the garden that was the attraction. The allotment cottage history & the tree history, were what sold it; we had “bidding wars”. When the sale fell through, in early December, due to the initial buyer’s change in circumstances, it sold again within half a day, for £15,000 more than the baseline guide price; once again, it was because of the garden, the history & the oak tree.

Neighbours have asked what they can do to help secure a TPO. The new owners offered to “take up the fight”. Near neighbours rang the Council, back in early Sept, to express concern that the tree was being felled. It wasn’t; the sycamores were being pollarded.

People were delighted & interested to know who owned the tree, when I was door-knocking for signatures. It’s enjoyed by far more households & passers-by, than given credit for, plus local people feel protective & passionate about it.

I’ve been speaking with Oliver Newham, of the Woodland Trust & Ben Driver of the Wildlife Trust. Both are very interested in the tree; both want to be kept updated. They support points already mentioned in my letter, with regard to points raised by signatories, in respect of the exchange of greenhouse gases, the ability of the root system to absorb much water, which is significant in this current climate of sudden floods & its ability to provide a home for wildlife; there have been many nests over the years.

Both gentlemen were agreed on how much of an asset he already is & will increasingly be so. Oaks have the best biodiversity; they support around 250 species of insects, including caterpillars. By contrast, Sycamores support only 15 & Chestnuts about 4. Woodpeckers love them, bats live in the crevices of mature oaks, squirrels & birds already use it. The leaf mould supports insects as well. About a third of our native species of fungi like to live on oaks.

This tree is the only 1 of 6 planted to survive & to survive being uprooted from Hilton Rd, to be replanted in its current place. I believe the petition & supportive comments by both the Woodland Trust & Nottm. Wildlife Trust, prove that the tree IS *“of high amenity value in the street scene,”* & the historical connections, both to Sherwood Forest & my dad, plus factual comments about how beneficial he is & will continue to be, as he matures, means he is deserving of a TPO. I would ask that the bigger picture be considered & understanding shown for the gardening work undertaken, plus the projection of his value as he matures, the opinions of the local people who actually see this tree & live with him, & lastly, the interest expressed by the Woodland & Wildlife Trusts.