

Civic Offices
Union Street
Chorley
Lancashire
PR7 1AL

Date: 15 July 2008

Our Ref: KA/AJS
Your Ref:

Dear

TREES AT BLACK CROFT

Thank you for your letter concerning the trees adjacent to your property. Your concerns have been brought to the attention of the Executive Member for this service area but I regret that it is not possible to carry out the work you have requested.

Although we have received a number of separate letters we are treating them as a petition – which means that they will be reported to the meeting of the Full Council on Tuesday 23 September. The meeting commences at 6.30pm at the Town Hall and you are welcome to attend.

The planting that concerns you was originally put in place as part of the plans of the Central Lancashire New Town. These “shelter belts” were put in place to screen residential property from the intrusive effects of traffic on the adjacent road system. In order to achieve this the New Town chose species that grow quite vigorously and achieved an effect in a relatively short space of time. Unfortunately, the only way to control the height and spread would be to treat these areas as hedges – which would be wholly impractical given the species and sizes of many of the trees.

Whilst they have been quite effective in screening the property they are a substantial financial burden to the Council over and above the considerable work we do at present. Our resources would not cover the level of maintenance you are suggesting for all of the shelter belts of this type in the Borough. Stretched end to end they would add up to several miles.

We make every effort to maintain the lower growth in a reasonable and presentable condition and will deal with overhanging branches where this is necessary. However, it is the Council's policy not to carry out work to reduce the size of trees to deal with the sort of problem you have identified at Black Croft.

Yours «Ending»

Keith Allen

Streetscene Manager
Tel: (01257) 515250
E-mail: keith.allen@chorley.gov.uk

cc Councillor Eric Bell
Gordon Banks
Dave Walmsley