

**11.2.9 REQUEST FOR FIG TREE REMOVAL, 37 CONGDON STREET,
COTTESLOE**

File No: PR51478
Attachments: [Copy of Letter Requesting Removal of Fig Tree 37 Congdon Street](#)
[Photos of Tree Litter 37 Congdon Street](#)
[Copy of Letter Requesting Fig Tree Removal 39 Congdon Street \(went to Council Feb2012\)](#)
[Plan of Site 37 and 39 Congdon Street](#)

Responsible Officer: Carl Askew
Chief Executive Officer

Author: Geoff Trigg
Manager Engineering Services

Proposed Meeting Date: 22 May 2012

Author Disclosure of Interest Nil

SUMMARY

An application has been received from the owners of 37 Congdon Street, Cottesloe, for the removal of one fig tree on the road verge, which affects their property because of the large volume of debris continually being dropped onto their property, footpath and crossover.

The recommendation is that Council:

1. Inform the applicant that the two fig trees fronting 37 and 39 Congdon Street will be removed and replaced with suitable native trees.
2. Thank the applicant for bringing this matter to Council's attention.

BACKGROUND

In February 2012, Council received a similar request from the owners of 39 Congdon Street, mentioning two fig trees, one of which was this tree. At the time, Council declined to remove those trees.

This tree will grow much larger, and is bounded by the public footpath, the street kerbing and a crossover. These assets are not yet being lifted by the tree roots. Fig trees are well known for their invasive root systems and the large amount of debris dropped.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Council's Street Tree Policy applies.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

There are no legal or statutory issues relating to where street trees must be planted and how they should be maintained, apart from the standard liability issues regarding potentially dangerous street trees in the public domain.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This tree would cost approximately \$1,500 to remove.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Native species of suitable street trees planted in locations where the root systems can develop without being restricted or causing damage to infrastructure are of high value to a community's sustainability objectives. Unfortunately, these fig trees, like a number of Cottesloe street trees, are not suitable species to be planted in the existing locations, because of the size they will grow to and the probable damage from invasive tree roots in the future.

CONSULTATION

Nil

STAFF COMMENT

Council's Street Tree policy includes a list of reasons why street trees would normally not be removed. One of these reasons is for the tree litter / leaf fall (messy tree). The other secondary reasons – root invasion into private property, cracks in paths and driveways and the fear of slipping over on the squashed berries – are standard complaints about large fig trees.

At the February 2012 meeting, Council "acknowledged that in the future there would be a need for Council to re-consider this particular issue".

The age of the owners and visitors and thus the increased potential for injury is a factor in this consideration.

VOTING

Simple Majority

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Cr Boland referred to the Town's Street Tree Policy where it outlines reasons that do not justify tree removals, such as tree litter/leaf fall ("messy" tree) and alternative species requested by residents. Cr Boland also referred to section 4(6) of the policy where it states "A proposal to remove or replace multiple street trees in one street shall require an expert's report, public consultation and consideration by Council" and suggested that Council conduct public consultation on the matter, in line with the policy.

Committee discussed the February 2012 request to remove a Fig Tree from Congdon Street, where Council voted to retain the tree. Committee agreed that in the long term, Morton Bag Fig Trees are not an appropriate species due to the long term issues associated with the roots systems, potential size of the tree and the tree debris, however there was reluctance to remove two trees, as Cottesloe is known for

being a “leafy suburb” for a reason. As such Committee questioned whether one tree could be removed at a time to allow the replacement sapling time to grow, before the second tree was removed.

Mayor Morgan advised that he was in favour of public consultation regarding the proposed removal of the street trees from Congdon Street, to give the community an opportunity to have a say on the matter of whether one, two or none of the trees be removed. Committee also requested that Administration consider what assistance could be offered in relation to cleaning up of the debris created by the trees pending the outcome of the consultation.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

Moved Cr Strzina, seconded Cr Rowell

THAT Council:

1. Inform the applicant that the two fig trees fronting 37 and 39 Congdon Street will be removed and replaced with suitable native trees.
2. Thank the applicant for bringing this matter to Council’s attention.

Lost 0/5

NEW MOTION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Moved Cr Boland, Seconded Mayor Morgan

THAT Council, in accordance with it’s Street Tree Policy, obtain an expert’s report and conduct public consultation in relation to the removal and replacement of either one or both of the fig trees fronting 37 and 39 Congdon Street, and report back to Council.

AMENDMENT

Moved Mayor Morgan, Seconded Cr Strzina

That the recommendation also include number 41 Congdon Street as per the information tabled by the Manager Engineering Services.

Carried 7/1

NEW MOTION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION AND COUNCIL RESOLUTION

THAT Council, in accordance with it’s Street Tree Policy, obtain an expert’s report and conduct public consultation in relation to the removal and replacement of either one or both of the fig trees fronting 37, 39 and 41 Congdon Street, and report back to Council.

THE AMENDED SUBSTANTIVE MOTION WAS PUT

**Equality 4/4
Mayor casting vote for the motion
Carried 5/4**

E-mail Message

From: Campbell, Cathy [SMTP:Cathy.Campbell@health.wa.gov.au]
To: council [EX:/O=TOWN OF
COTTESLOE/OU=COTTESLOE/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COUNCIL]
Cc: Richard Hazlewood [SMTP:exec.sch@bigpond.net.au]
Sent: 5/1/2012 at 11:33 AM
Received: 5/1/2012 at 11:33 AM
Subject: Dangerous safety risk

Attachments: img-5011104-0001.pdf
IMG_6838 (3).jpg
IMG_6843 (2).jpg
IMG_6848 (2).jpg
IMG_6838 (3).jpg

To CEO Mr Carl Askew,

Please find attached a letter from my Mother for your attention. Photos are also attached.

My parents have been residents for more than 40 years in Congdon St. They are now 88 and 96 years of age and are worried about their safety and that of their elderly friends.

Removal of the tress if the only option and I look forward to your reply to my Mother's letter.

thank you, Cathy Campbell

12 Kathleen St, Cottesloe

37 Congdon Street,
COTTESLOE 6011

Sunday 29th April 2012

Town of Cottesloe
Broome Street,
COTTESLOE 6011

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to you about a dangerous situation regarding the Moreton Bay fig tree growing on the verge outside my house. As I am sure you know, each year the berries drop on to the road, footpath and verge making a MESS which has to be cleaned up. The berries are prolific. They get squashed and stick to shoes making a mess on floors, carpets, etc when inadvertently brought into the home. They take some moving from the bottom of shoes and the footpath. They make a mess on top of any car that might be parked under the tree.

My husband and I are elderly, not 100% mobile and finding it difficult to deal with this situation. The berries can become slippery and I am fearful one of us might slip and fall. Tomorrow, Monday 30th April, I have a group of friends visiting my home. One has had a hip replacement and another a knee operation. I am worried about the fact one of them might slip and fall because of the berries.

Also, the roots of the tree are beginning to create cracks in the driveway. For years I have not been able to grow flowers, especially roses, because the fig tree roots have impoverished the soil (a horticulturist's opinion). The grass struggles to grow and I have what was left of the verge grass taken out and replaced with natives and woodchips.

Please give urgent consideration to this issue. I have been a ratepayer since 1970 and really feel it is time for the Council to remove the Moreton Bay fig trees and replace them with something like indigenous natives *-trees or plants.*

Yours faithfully,

M.D. Hutchinson
M.D. Hutchinson (Mrs)

E-mail Message

From: Gillian Woods [SMTP:1gilly1959@gmail.com]
To: council [EX:/O=TOWN OF
COTTESLOE/OU=COTTESLOE/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COUNCIL]
Cc:
Sent: 5/12/2011 at 11:51 PM
Received: 5/12/2011 at 11:51 PM
Subject: Re fig tree removal

39 Congdon St
Cottesloe WA 6011
Ph. 93840096

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you in regards to two fig trees on the verge in front of my house, at 39 Congdon Street.

I had phoned Council about them a few weeks ago, and was advised to write an email.

The trees are far too big for the location, and they have wreaked havoc with my plumbing. I have spent many hundreds of dollars over the time, and have now been informed that my plumbing needs replacing due to root damage.

I am requesting that they be removed as you have tried lopping them, but they have just grown back so quickly and are again overhanging my carport and blocking my gutters with leaves and figs.

Please give this matter your urgent attention.

If you wish, I can email you copies of my plumbing bills for reference.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you and regards,

Gillian Woods

E-mail Message

From: Geoff Trigg [EX:/O=TOWN OF COTTESLOE/OU=COTTESLOE/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=GEOFF]
To: Christy Watterson [EX:/O=TOWN OF COTTESLOE/OU=COTTESLOE/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=Christyw]
Cc:
Sent: 20/02/2012 at 11:46 AM
Received: 20/02/2012 at 11:46 AM
Subject: FW: Verge Tree reg.

From: Surendran Selladurai [mailto:S.Selladurai@murdoch.edu.au]
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2012 10:42 AM
To: Geoff Trigg
Subject: Verge Tree reg.

Dear Geoff,

I am living 41, Congdon street in Cottesloe. I have brought this issue several times to the council attention before. However good decision hasn't been made on this matter. We have a big tree on the verge. That tree is giving huge mess in our garden, on the path, verge and road through out the year. We are trying to keep the places tidy but this is uncontrollable and the tree is now un-managable. I discussed with my neighbour regarding this issues during this week end. They told me that they have already brought this issue to your attention. We would like to take this tree off and keep the place tidy. This tree is giving little pleasure but more pain. I hope you can understand our situtation and please cut that tree.

Thanks

Regards,

Surendran Selladurai

Resident

41, Congdon Street

Cottesloe











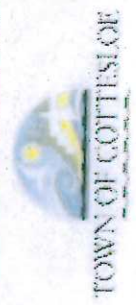


Scale 1:488

Monday, February 13, 2012

The Town of Cottesloe does not warrant the accuracy of information in this publication and any person using or relying upon such information does so on the basis that the Town of Cottesloe shall bear no responsibility or liability whatsoever for any errors, faults, defects or omissions in the information.

VERGE FIG TREES, 39 CONGDON STREET,
COTTESLOE



ATTACHMENTS

Do not place attachments over the dotted line

3rd July, 2012

37 Congdon Street
COTTESLOE 6011

Mr. Carl Askew
Chief Executive Officer
Town of Cottesloe 6011

TOWN OF COTTESLOE

04 JUL 2012

RECEIVED

Dear Mr. Askew

Further to my initial letter to the Council of the 29th April 2012 and oral submissions at Council meetings of 22nd May 2012 and 28th May 2012 regarding the 2 fig trees at 37, 39 and 41 Congdon Street, Cottesloe, I wish to request the removal of these trees for all the reasons previously given.

Yours sincerely

M.D. Hutchinson

P.S. Picture of damage caused by fig tree just a few weeks ago.



A huge moreton bay fig was uprooted at a Peppermint Grove property on Tuesday night.



Sunday's storm snapped two trees at Keane's Point.

Big sweep-up in Grove

By **ANDREA TCHACOS**

Peppermint Grove worked fast this week to return its debris-covered verges to their usual pristine state.

Branches littered the streets after Sunday night's storm, which also brought down two trees at Keane's Point and undermined the river wall near Keane's Point jetty.

Shire CEO Anne Banks McAllister said more trees were brought down on Tuesday night, most of them on private property.

These included a huge moreton bay fig at 31 View Street, which smashed a fence and raised the footpath when it was uprooted.

While a private tree contractor was hired to help with two

bigger jobs on Monday, two shire crewmen had done most of the cleaning up, Ms Banks-McAllister said.

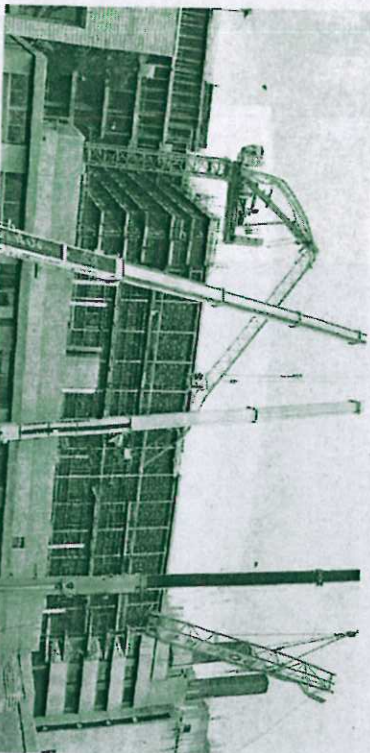
"All streets and footpaths look almost back to normal." She said residents should call Cottesloe police on 9286 7777 if they were worried that a tree was dangerous.



Flood tide ... A high tide and strong onshore winds pushed the Swan River to break its banks at Crawley near the Matilda Bay restaurant.



A lone fisherman braves the cold and wind on Claremont Jetty as the swollen river sprays through the jetty's planks.



Workers use heavy lifting equipment to remove the toppled crane on top of the Pathwest building at O'Ell on Tuesday night.

ATTACHMENTS

Do not place attachments over the dotted line

3rd July, 2012

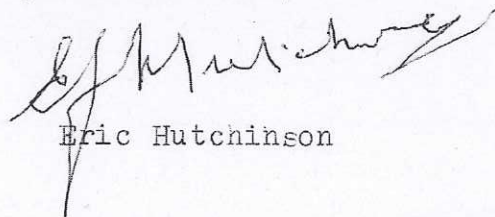
37 Congdon Street
Cottesloe 6011

Mr. Carl Askew
Chief Executive Officer
Town of Cottesloe 6011

Dear Mr. Askew

I am in support of the removal and replacement of the 2 fig trees at 37, 39 and 41 Congdon Street, Cottesloe.

yours sincerely



Eric Hutchinson



39 Congdon Street

Cottesloe, 6011

Mr Carl Askew

Chief Executive officer

Town of Cottesloe

PO Box 606

Cottesloe WA 6011



Dear Mr Askew,

I am writing in support of the removal and replacement of two fig trees at 37, 39 and 41 Congdon Street, Cottesloe.

The reasons for my support for the removal of these trees are many, as I live with them both. They are on the verge at the front of my home.

There are safety and hazard issues due to the fact they drop a very large quantity of figs on my driveway and the road in front of my home. In the rain these figs become really slippery and cars have been known to skid on them. There potential for a car accident to occur as cars often drive at speed down the hill too fast for the conditions. Also the footpath becomes very slippery both these situations are a very real public liability concern.

They are not suitable trees for the narrow verge, the roots are causing damage to my driveway and this will only get worse as they grow in size.

There are also plumbing issues due to these two trees. I regularly get a plumber out to clear roots in my blocked sewer. I have been told it is cracked and really needs replacement. This is an expense that will be very hard for me to afford.

I really urge the council to do something about the removal of these trees and replace them with more suitable trees. I am not against trees, I love trees but these fig trees are just not a suitable species of tree to be planted in such a confined space. They are very large trees and really should be planted in parks where there is plenty of room for them to grow, not on a verge where they interfere with driveways, plumbing and guttering of the houses. Why should the residents of Cottesloe have to suffer as a result of Cottesloe Council making poor decisions about the street trees they plant? We pay a lot of money each year in rates and I personally have lived here for over ten years.

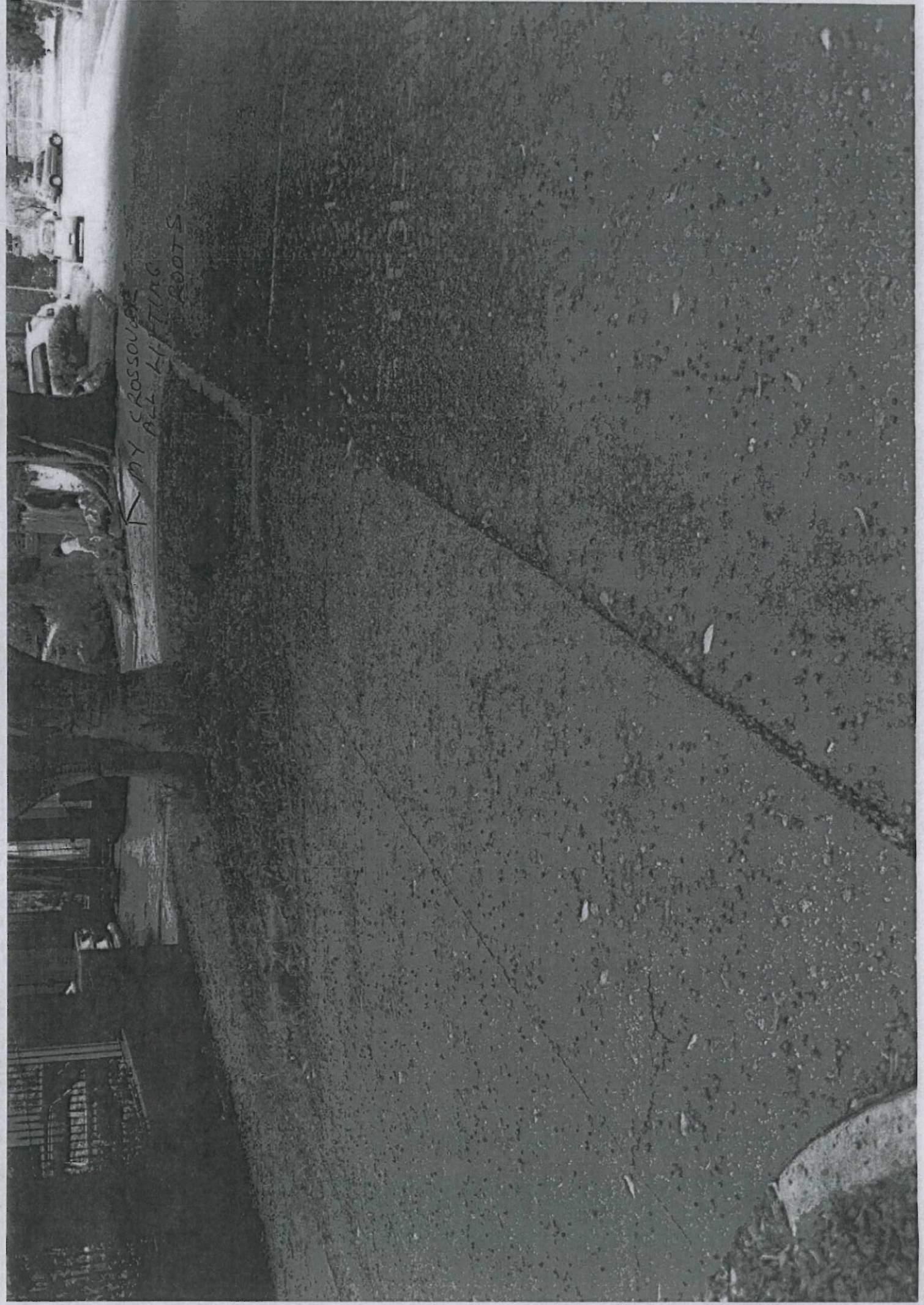
Please consider the three households that are affected by these trees as they have a big impact in our lives and it is not a positive impact.

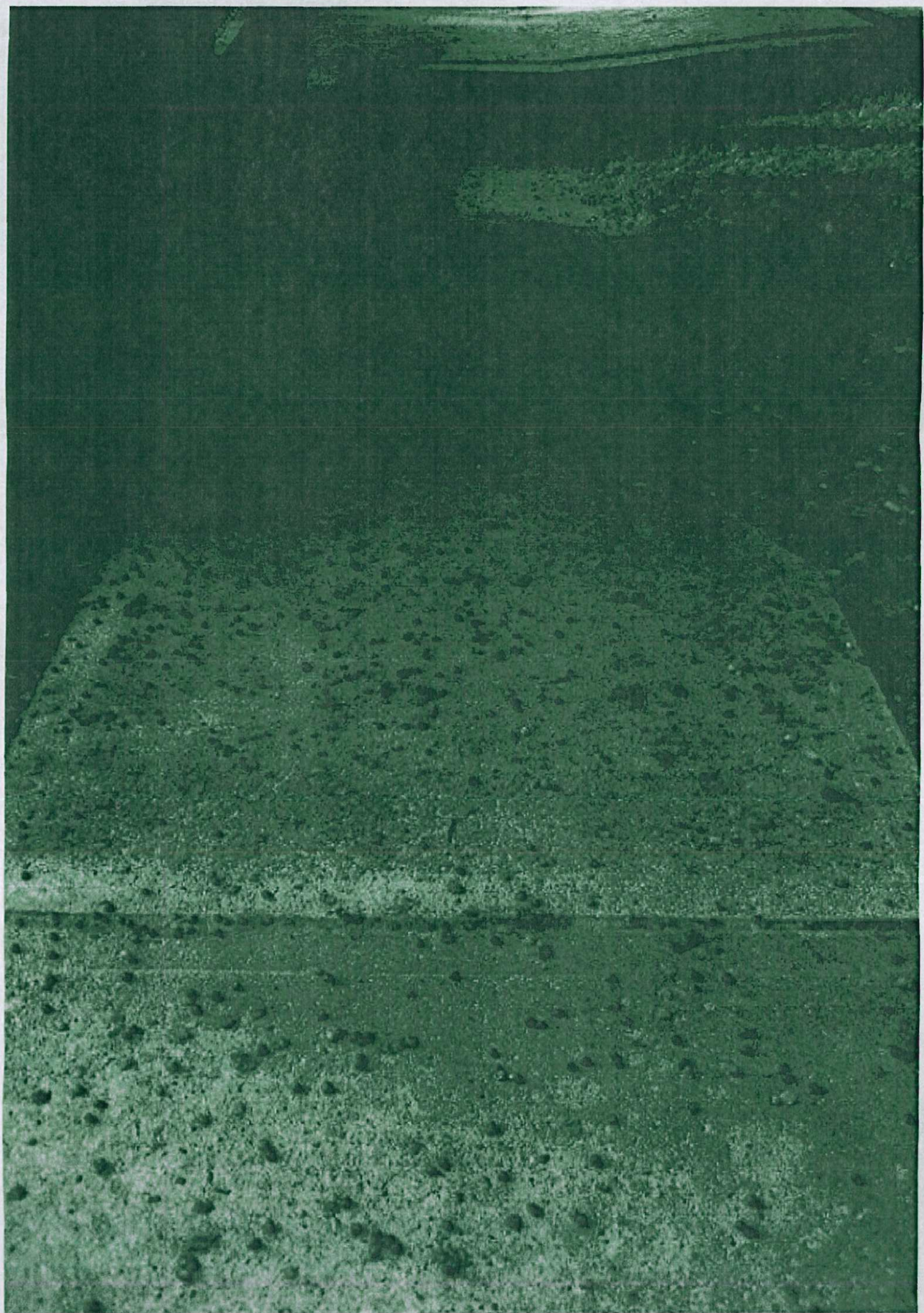
Yours sincerely

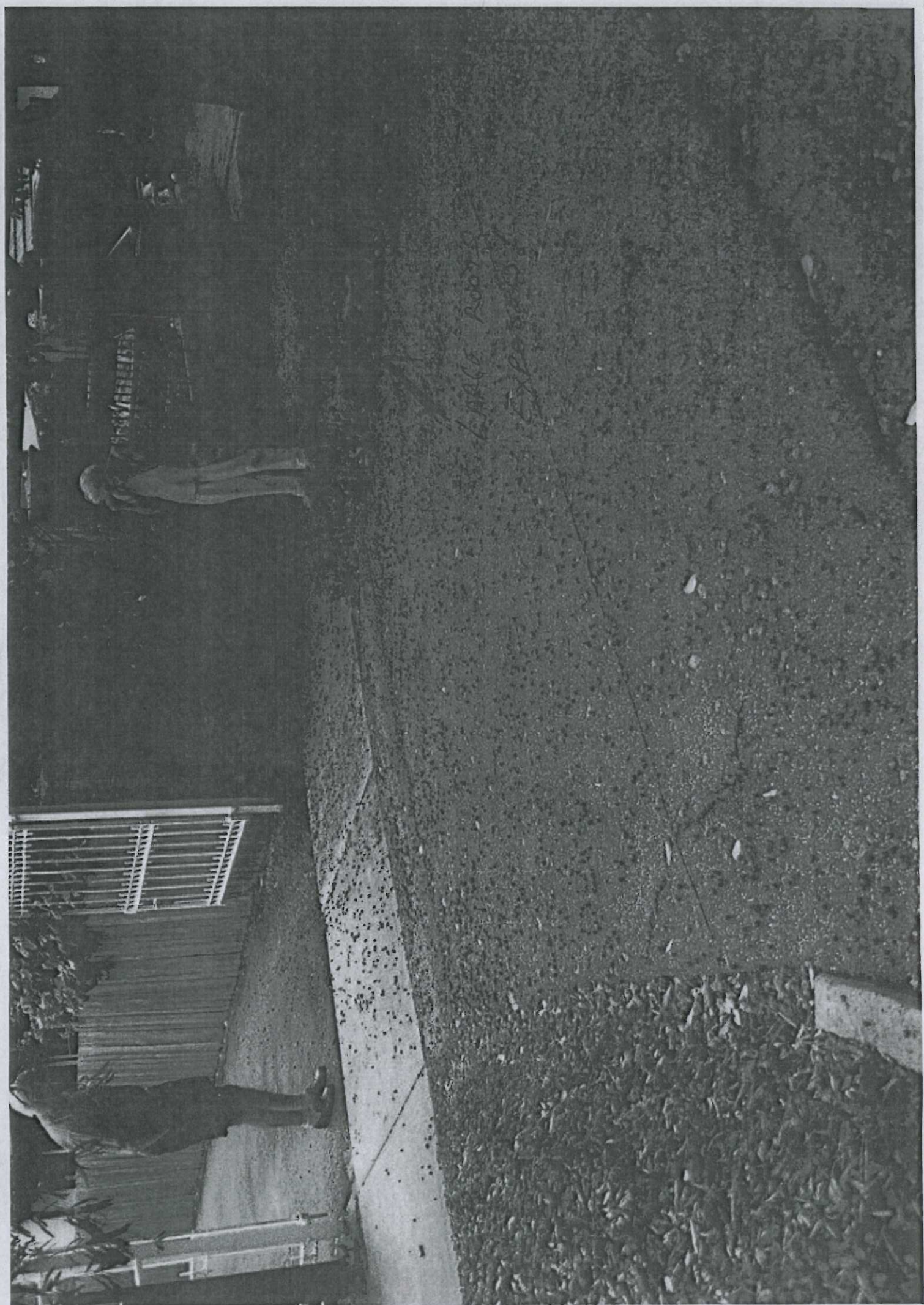
Gillian Woods

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gillian Woods', written in a cursive style.

K MY CROSSOVER
ALL LIFTING
ROOTS







LARGE ROOM
EXP 1000



TOWN OF COTTESLOE
20 JUN 2012
RECEIVED

Richard Hazlewood
12 Kathleen Street
Cottesloe
WA 6011

19th June 2012

Attn: Mr Carl Askew
Chief Executive Officer
Town of Cottesloe
P O Box 606
Cottesloe WA 6011

Dear Mr Askew

Further to your public request for submissions regarding

**Street Tree Removal and Replacement – Two Fig Trees at
37, 39 and 41 Congdon Street**

I respectfully submit the following in support of the removal and replacement of these trees.

As a regular visitor over many years to the property at 37 Congdon Street I have long been aware of the unsuitability of the two large fig trees close to this property.

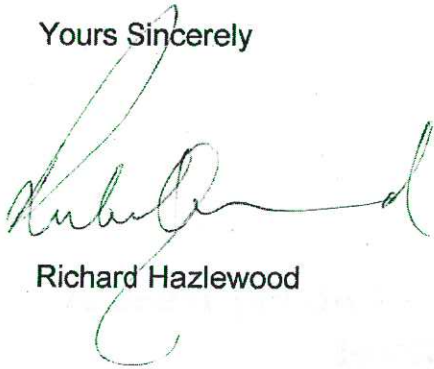
There are a number of problems I can identify, and these are:

- The trees are still growing and are inappropriate for the narrow verge of this street which they have already outgrown.
- The roots of these trees will cause the footpath to crack and create a dangerous unevenness requiring regular maintenance attention.
- The fruit that drops from these trees in abundance for a few weeks each year creates a dangerously slippery mess on the footpath which requires daily sweeping. There are many senior age residents and visitors in this street of which I am one, and I have in fact lost my footing a few times, once actually slipping over. Fortunately no lasting damage was done, although I was bruised.
- Congdon Street is a beautiful street with plentiful trees on the median strip as well as the footpath, most of them natives. These two fig trees already look out of place and aesthetically the whole environment would be improved if they were replaced with native trees more appropriate in size to the footpath.

Not being a resident I cannot comment on property damage specific to these two trees, yet their impact on pathways and drainage pipes is well known in general. Similarly it is well known that under their canopy it is difficult to grow either grass or other typical garden plants, and the canopy of these trees is already over the front gardens of the affected houses.

I have made a point of reading the Council's Tree policy and believe these trees clearly fit within your definition of 'undesirable' species, although I acknowledge that in certain environments such as public reserves they can be viewed as attractive and exotic.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Hazlewood', written in a cursive style.

Richard Hazlewood

D12/9634

Carl Askew CEO
 Mayor Kevin Morgan
 e all Councillors
 Town of Cottesloe - Sent by FAX to
 Editor Post Newspaper - 9285 5001
 Bret Christian - 9388 3883

After reading the Post article "Felon of a fig" 26/5/12 I am writing to support the people affected by these trees and the Cottesloe Council staff who have recommended the removal. This species of tree was planted by the early settlers of Perth at a time of much less urban development.

My personal knowledge of the problems caused by these fig trees is that of my two children who own property in Leederville and Shenton Park. They have also experienced constant plumbing blockage, damage to roofs and gutters from sooty mould, excessive leaf drop all year round and seasonal fruit drop - which sticks like "shit" to everything. Try parking a car under these trees for a short while - not beautiful at all!

Sincerley ,



Barbara Campbell
 14 Forrest St
 Cottesloe
 PH 92861806

TOWN OF COTTESLOE

04 JUL 2012

RECEIVED

Grant St
Cottesloe WA 6011

Mr Carl Askew
Chief Executive Officer
Town of Cottesloe
PO Box 606
Cottesloe WA 6011

Dear Mr Askew

Street Tree Removal and Replacement - 37 Congdon St

I am in support of the removal and replacement of the two fig trees at 37,
39 and 41 Congdon Street, Cottesloe.

Yours sincerely



CHERYL BRENNER

27 June 2012

18 GRANT ST

COTTESLOE 6011

Lew Mutch

From: Lew Mutch [lmutch@bigpond.net.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 4 July 2012 10:46 AM
To: 'council@cottesloe.wa.gov.au'



Subject: Re Fig Tree Removal

I send this email in response to the request for the removal of Moreton Bay Fig trees in Congdon Street, Cottesloe.... Some 25 years ago I had a Moreton Bay Fig on the Street verge outside my home on the corner of Rosser Street and Curtin Avenue, Cottesloe and as with the trees in Congdon Street it was causing problems with fruit dropping on the footpath and therefore a danger of people slipping on the slippery fruit, plus the mess of rotting fruit attracting insects!, the main problem was the damage caused to paths, foundations and possible damage to my swimming pool being a worry. I approached the Council to have the tree removed and was told "We do not cut down trees in Cottesloe"! I then proceeded to investigate the matter further and found the following

1.....In the mid 1930,s the Council published an article in the then Civic Centre News advising Ratepayers NOT the plant Fig Trees in Cottesloe because of the damage to Roads, Paths etc
 2.....I obtained an article from the Sydney Morning Herald (Mid Eightys) which highlighted a serious problem with a Moreton Bay Fig in the Suburb of Woollahra which causing \$6000.00 a year damage to paths and other structures in the suburb (Remember this was 25 years ago). Today that would be closer to \$20,000.00..

I then put these facts together with a letter to the Council stating that any damage caused to my property by the Fig Tree would result in Legal Action!. That information may still be in your possession!
 We waste enough of ratepayers money with roundabouts etc (Which end up being demolished) and legal action against the State Government, which could cost us Thousands, with out further needless expenditure, Just to satisfy the Greenies on our Council
 In conclusion I implore you to remove these Trees and think of the Ratepayers !.....By the way the Moreton Bay Fig outside my house was removed by the Council about a week After my letter was received!. Thank you for your time...

Lew Mutch, 25 Rosser Street Cottesloe,
 93842397

12 Kathleen Street
Cottesloe WA 6011

Mr Carl Askew
Chief Executive Officer
Town of Cottesloe
PO Box 606
Cottesloe WA 6011

2 July 2012

Dear Mr Askew

Street Tree Removal and Replacement – 37 Congdon St

I am writing in **support of the removal and replacement** of the two fig trees at 37, 39 and 41 Congdon Street, Cottesloe. Please allow two replacement native trees to flourish at this location.

I have been a ratepayer and resident of **North Ward** for more than 20 years and am a tree lover. I have also lived in Congdon Street for many years, know the area well and I visit 37 Congdon Street regularly every week and park in the driveway or on the roadway under the fig trees.

The large fig tree at this address has become unsuitable for the street verge and dangerous. The trees at 37 and 39 Congdon St, in their current state with raised roots, and the numerous berries which drop at regular periods during the year, have become a safety hazard.

Previous complaints

The trees have gradually become more and more of a problem over the years. Between the residents of 37 Congdon Street and the previous and current neighbours, issues have often been discussed with the roots such as plumbing and drainage and issues with berries such as slipping hazards as well as low hanging branches. These concerns have previously been raised with the Town of Cottesloe including earlier in 2012 by the owner of 39 Congdon Street.

Inconsistency with Street Tree Policy

The fig trees are not consistent with the Town of Cottesloe's Street Trees Policy for species selection, amenity or public safety. Fig trees are far better suited to large parks and this is where local government councils are likely to encourage and support them. Many councils specifically **do not recommend** the planting of fig trees in residential areas and on house verges. In fact, most councils would remove them early. Fig trees on narrow verges such as outside 37 and 39 Congdon St were poorly chosen in the past by the Town of Cottesloe and this now needs to be rectified.

Safety and hazards

Many visitors to 37 Congdon St are seniors and ageing. Some have vision impairment, some have joint replacements, some have balance issues etc. Despite these handicaps, the tripping and slipping hazards are there for all age groups.

I park in the driveway and due to the large raised roots from the tree, see photo 1 attached, there is no way of alighting without stepping around the roots. At night and when carrying bags, this is even more hazardous! This also applies to the numerous

berries that drop onto the driveway, road and footpath, all of which are on sloping ground, see photos 2 and 3 attached.

Despite large fig trees often being considered as a stable tree, in the last two issues of the Post, there have been articles referring to the uprooting of a large fig tree and branches dropping off another fig tree, see photos 4 and 5 attached. Clearly they are more dangerous than previously thought and there are even more safety issues to consider.

Evidence of damage is provided by the fact that on previous occasions, the Town of Cottesloe has repaired the driveway at 37 Congdon St due to raised roots from this tree and now the driveway is again cracking, see photo 6 attached. Brick paving at 39 Congdon St is also lifting up, see photo 7 attached.

The Town of Cottesloe has also cut back branches due to low overhang and the risk of hitting one's head. With hazards of the roots, branches and berries increasing, the Town of Cottesloe will either have to continue to address these hazards and most likely commence sweeping berries and undertake other maintenance or it could redirect its efforts elsewhere if the two trees were replaced.

This matter of hazards and damage to property has been identified by several residents around 37, 39 and 41 Congdon Street and on more than one occasion. This has been raised as a safety issue at both the Works Committee and the Full Council Meeting. **Public liability** will now become more of an issue for Council if someone is adversely impacted by the hazards presented by these unsuitable trees.

Further damage to property

The well known invasive root system of the two fig trees has caused extensive damage to property at least at 37 and 39 Congdon Street. Both properties require regular plumbers and drainers to remove tree roots from pipes and drains. The bathrooms for these houses are at the front of these houses and there are no other trees in the vicinity. The invasive roots have also destroyed the reticulation system at 37 Congdon Street both on the street verge and in the front garden.

The driveway inside 37 Congdon Street has been replaced due to root damage and the pathway to the front door at 39 Congdon Street has also been replaced due to cracks all the way up to the front door!

Lack of aesthetic value

The verge at the front of 39 Congdon St is unpleasant and provides no aesthetic value due to a massive tree trunk with tree roots either just below the surface or on the surface. Drainage is poor and the ground level has been raised due to the root system and nothing else can grow in this area. Most of the year it is covered with berries at various stages of decomposition. As a resident, it is not possible to do anything else other than 'put up with it'. The verge is narrow with the distance from the footpath to the road approximately three metres, hardly a wide verge for a Moreton Bay fig tree. Also the roadway outside this address is single one-way lane so again the space is not suited to such a big tree. Doesn't this indicate that eventually the tree will outgrow the verge and have to be removed anyway? See photos 8 and 9 attached of older trees which indicate how big the trees at 37 and 39 Congdon St will grow.

There are many other trees on the median strip outside 37 and 39 Congdon Street. In fact there are more trees, established and new, in this vicinity than in most parts of Cottesloe with wide median strips.

There are many well established trees in the vicinity of 37 Congdon and a suitable replacement tree would add to the amenity of this area for residents and provide habitat for birds.

Councillors' concerns

The reasons provided by Councillors, that were reported in the Post, to keep the trees have included 'beauty, shade, habitat, benefits to people, it is a significant move to take out very big trees, significant interest in them and age of residents and visitors'.

A replacement tree can also provide beauty. The residents who live with the trees do not find them beautiful and are prepared to go without the shade provided (as they and their visitors will be most impacted due to lack of shade). There are plenty of other shady places for car parking in close proximity to these trees. A replacement tree will soon provide adequate shade.

As for habitat, for whatever reason, no birds nest in these trees and they have never been known to provide habitat for anything other than rats who love the berries!

It is appreciated that taking out the trees is a significant move and this will become of more significance as the trees age. 'A stitch in time saves nine'.

A point raised in the Post by a 'tree activist' outside of Cottesloe was that tree removal and replacement should not be considered due to an ageing population's views. Why wouldn't an ageing population's views be considered! Whilst it is not appropriate here to go into the necessity of consideration of an increasing number of seniors, including in Cottesloe, it can also be argued that the views of local residents are more important than those more geographically removed from the issue. Nevertheless, the safety issues identified can affect people of all ages.

Other comments in the Post from a tree activist were ill informed because cleaning up of leaf litter was not the main reason provided for their replacement and the request for replacement has been substantiated.

Also noted in the Post, 'significant interest' in these trees was due to the Post having it as a cover page story. Without that report, based on residents speaking to this item at the council meetings, there is not likely to have been any interest.

If Councillors are still keen to keep these two trees then please consider transplanting them elsewhere in Cottesloe so their presence is appreciated by those who don't mind their unsuitability for this Congdon St address.

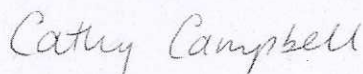
Continuing problem

The fig trees appear healthy (no thanks to the intrusion into adjacent water and sewerage pipes and reticulation systems). No doubt the arborist's report will agree. Unfortunately this means the trees will continue to grow strongly resulting in more branches, more berries, berries of a larger size, more roots, more underground problems for the residents and more safety hazards.

Conclusion

Please vote for removal of the two fig trees on safety, unsuitability and aesthetic grounds (and arrange for their delivery to the zoo for the enjoyment of the elephants) and replace them with suitable native trees as recommended by the Engineering Department.

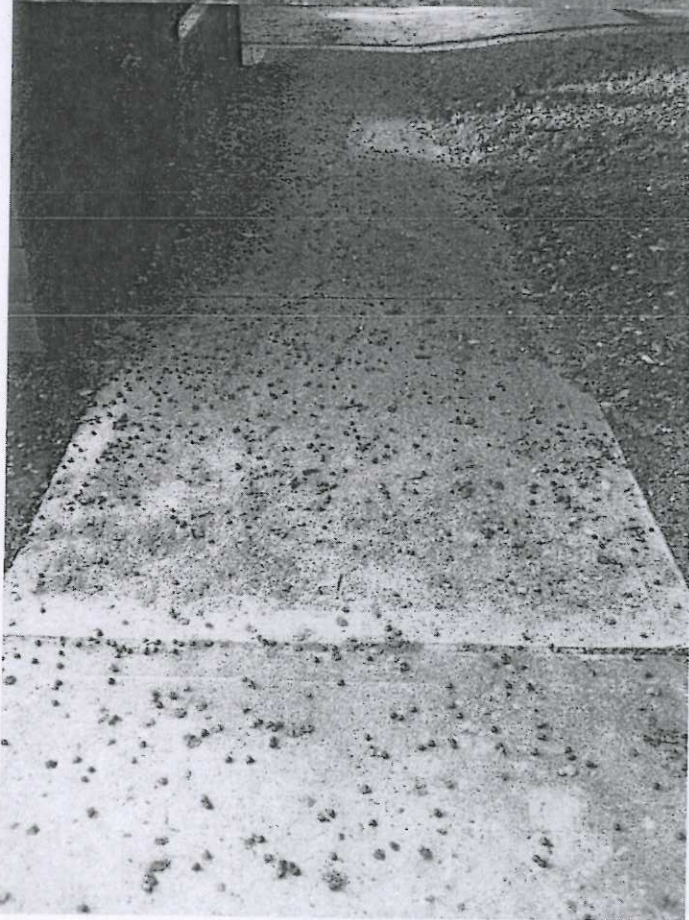
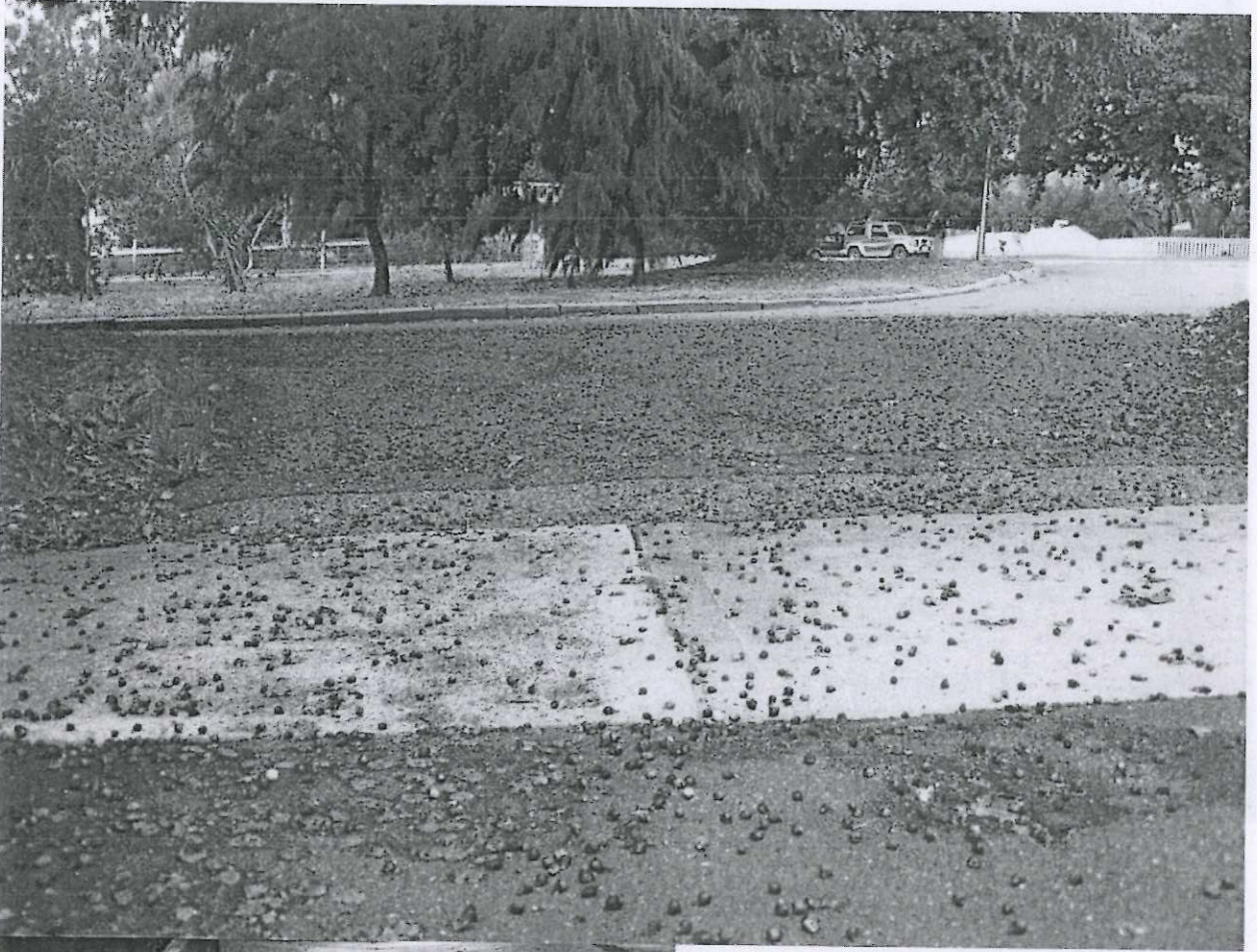
Yours sincerely



Cathy Campbell



Photo 1. Raised roots, approximately 12 inches above ground and rising!



Photos 2, 3 of
berries at
37 and 39 Congdon St.



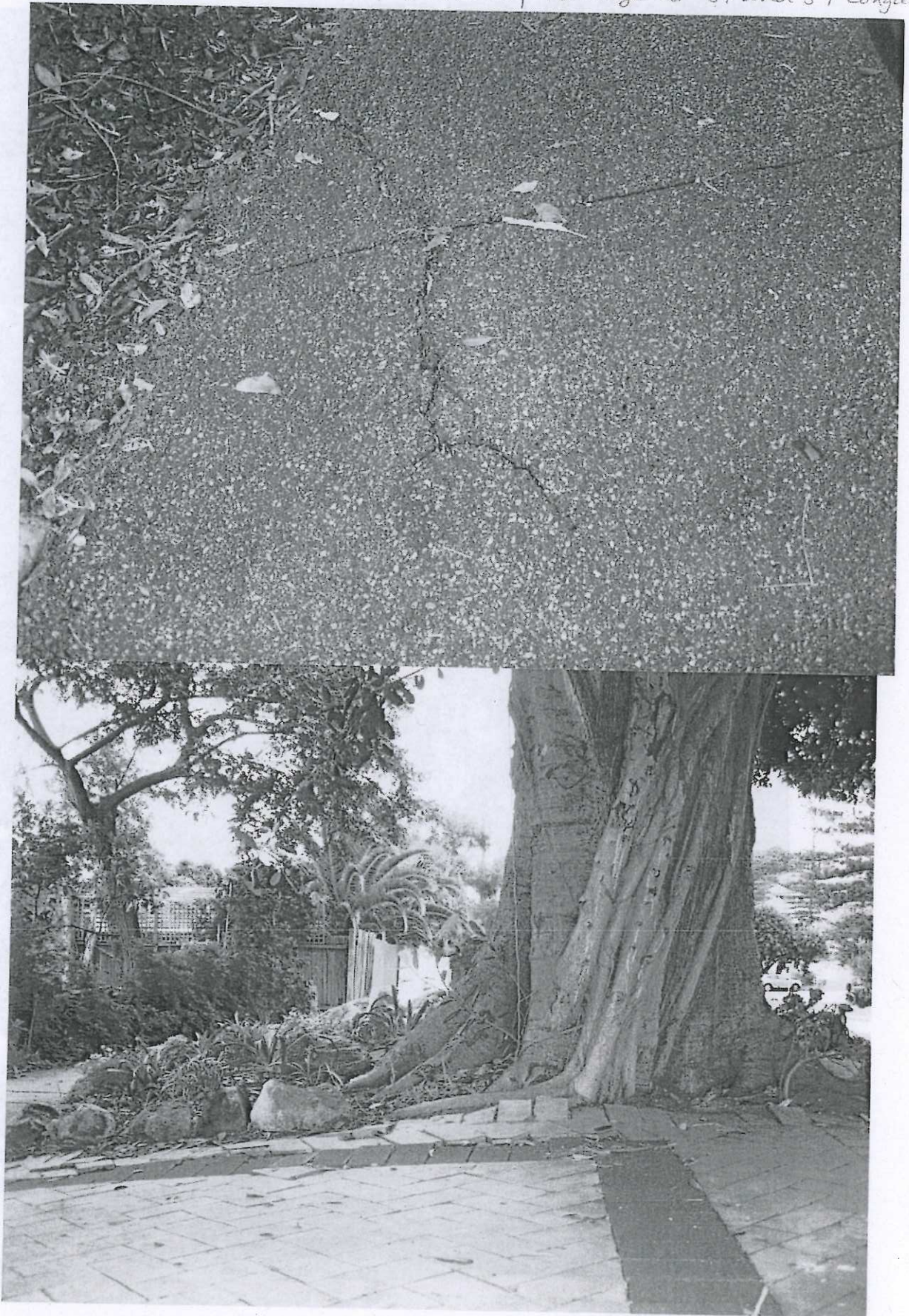
Branches were ripped off the school's trademark 100-year-old moreton bay fig tree.

Photos 4 and 5



A huge moreton bay fig was uprooted at a Peppermint Grove property on Tuesday night.

Photos 6 and 7 of driveway damage at 37 and 39 Congdon St.





Photos 8 and 9

89 St Louis Village
4 Albert St
Claremont WA 6010



Mr Carl Askew
Chief Executive Officer
Town of Cottesloe
PO Box 606
Cottesloe WA 6011

Dear Mr Askew

Street Tree Removal and Replacement – 37 Congdon St

I am in support of the removal and replacement of the two fig trees at 37, 39 and 41 Congdon Street, Cottesloe.

I have been visiting 37 Congdon Street regularly over the past 40 years and am a tree lover. However the large fig tree at this address has become unsuitable for the street verge and dangerous.

I do not want to trip over tree roots or slip and fall due to the berries on the sloping footpath and driveway. I believe the trees in their current state with raised roots, and the numerous berries when they drop at regular periods during the year, to be a safety hazard. Seniors are more at risk from these hazards especially those with physical health problems such as hip and knee replacements, sight impairment and being unsteady on their feet.

There are many well established trees in the vicinity of 37 Congdon Street and a suitable replacement tree should be planted as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

(Mrs) Iris Smith

25 June 2012

St Louis Village
Albert St
Claremont WA 6010

TOWN OF COTTESLOE

04 JUL 2012

RECEIVED

Mr Carl Askew
Chief Executive Officer
Town of Cottesloe
PO Box 606
Cottesloe WA 6011

Dear Mr Askew

Street Tree Removal and Replacement – 37 Congdon St

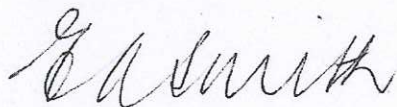
I am in support of the removal and replacement of the two fig trees at 37, 39 and 41 Congdon Street, Cottesloe.

I have been visiting 37 Congdon Street regularly over the past 40 years and am a tree lover. However the large fig tree at this address has become unsuitable for the street verge and dangerous.

I do not want to trip over tree roots or slip and fall due to the berries on the sloping footpath and driveway. I believe the trees in their current state with raised roots, and the numerous berries when they drop at regular periods during the year, to be a safety hazard.

There are many well established trees in the vicinity of 37 Congdon Street and a suitable replacement tree should be planted as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely



26 June 2012

212/11034

TOWN OF COTTESLOE

25 JUN 2012

RECEIVED

460/118 Monash Avenue
NEDLANDS 6009

19 June 2012

Mr Carl Askew
Chief Executive Officer
Town of Cottesloe
P O Box 606
COTTESLOE 6911

Dear Sir,

**MORETON BAY FIG TREES,
CONGDON STREET, SWANBOURNE**

This is to advise that I am strongly in support off the removal of the two Moreton Bay fig trees in Congdon Street, outside residences at No. 37 and 39.

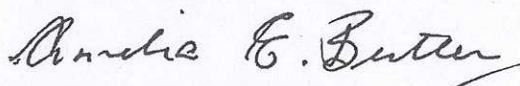
I have visited this area on numerous and regular occasions for many years and have observed the growth of these trees over the years.

Although I do not generally approve of the removal of any trees, anywhere, these two trees have become far too large and dangerous for the situation in which they grow. Their roots are gigantic and invasive, and protrude above ground, damaging paths and property.

At the time of the year when the trees are in fruit, a carpet of squashy fruit litters the pavement and the ground beneath them. This makes them exceedingly treacherous for pedestrians of any age - whether they be elderly or little children.

I am a ratepayer of Cottesloe, and hope the Council will see reason and agree to the removal of these trees for the benefit of all.

Yours faithfully,



AMELIA E BUTLER

TOWN OF COTTESLOE

- 5 JUL 2012

RECEIVED

2/5 Wollaston Rd

Mt Claremont WA 6010

4 July 2012

Dear Mr Askew

I am writing in response to submissions advertised in the Post recently for removal of street trees

I am a horticulturalist and currently work for Kings Park, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority I am also a former resident of Congdon Street and am familiar with the fig trees due for removal.

The Moreton Bay Fig, *Ficus macrophylla*, is a beautiful tree from the Eastern States growing up to 60m Positioned in the right place they can be a great feature however as a street tree in a suburban area they are a nuisance The root system is highly invasive causing disruption to sewerage, plumbing, electrical and road/footpath services

I would highly recommend and strongly support the removal of these trees and replacement with a native species

Yours sincerely



James Barber

E-mail Message

From: [Campbell Neil \[SMTP:Neil.Campbell@atsb.gov.au\]](mailto:Campbell.Neil@atsb.gov.au)
To: [council \[EX:/O=TOWN OF COTTESLOE/OU=COTTESLOE/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COUNCIL\]](mailto:council@atsb.gov.au)
Cc:
Sent: 21/06/2012 at 8:13 AM
Received: 21/06/2012 at 8:13 AM
Subject: Submission: Street Tree Removal and Replacement - Congdon Street [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Attachments: Submission-Neil Campbell-Tree Removal Congdon Street.pdf

Dear Mr Askew,

Please see the attached letter in strong support of the removal and replacement of the two fig trees located at 37, 39 & 41 Congdon Street Cottesloe.

Regards,

Neil Campbell

HYPERLINK "mailto:xxx.xxxx@atsb.gov.au"neil.campbell@atsb.gov.au

This message has been issued by the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) which is an independent Commonwealth Government Statutory Agency. The information transmitted is for the use of the intended recipient only and may contain confidential and/or legally privileged material. Any review, re-transmission, disclosure, dissemination or other use of, or taking of any action in reliance upon, this information by persons or entities other than the intended recipient is prohibited and may result in severe penalties. If you have received this e-mail in error please notify the Agency's IT Help Desk, telephone (02) 6274-7900 and delete all copies of this transmission together with any attachments.

6 Low Place
Pearce ACT 2607
21 June 2012

Mr Carl Askew
Chief Executive Officer
Town of Cottesloe
PO Box 606
Cottesloe WA 6011

Reference: Street Tree Removal and Replacement 37, 39 & 41 Congdon Street

Dear Mr Askew,

I am writing to strongly support the removal and replacement of the two fig trees on the verges outside 37, 39 & 41 Congdon Street Cottesloe.

As a former resident of 37 Congdon Street and a current regular visitor to the house, I am very aware of the hazardous situation these trees have created:

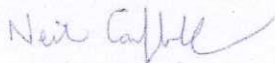
- Slipping/tripping hazard to residents as they drop a large amount of berries and leaves on internal driveways and crossovers (the residents of 37 Congdon Street, and their visitors, are elderly and at heightened risk of slipping over)
- Slipping/tripping hazard to pedestrians using the footpath
- Skidding hazard to cyclists using the roadway underneath the trees

These trees are still not fully mature and are likely to increase in size, therefore increasing the hazard presented to residents and the public as well as the liability presented to Council.

In addition, the invasive roots of the tree outside 37 & 39 Congdon Street have previously caused damage to the crossover of 37 Congdon Street and the plumbing and drainage of 39 Congdon Street.

Fig trees are completely unsuited as street trees when planted on narrow verges and in close proximity to footpaths and houses. I look forward to the removal of the fig trees and their replacement with a suitable species. This will eliminate the safety issues that the fig trees have created.

Yours sincerely,



Neil Campbell

Views outside 37 Congdon Street, Cottesloe



Mr Carl Askew
Chief Executive Officer
Town of Cottesloe
PO Box 606
Cottesloe WA 6011

TOWN OF COTTESLOE
04 JUL 2012
RECEIVED

18 June 2012

Dear Mr Askew

Street Tree Removal and Replacement – 37 Congdon St

I am in support of the removal and replacement of the two fig trees at 37, 39 and 41 Congdon Street, Cottesloe.

I visit 37 Congdon Street and am a tree lover. However the large fig tree at this address has become unsuitable for the street verge and dangerous.

I believe the trees in their current state with raised roots, and the numerous berries when they drop at regular periods during the year, to be a safety hazard. As a senior citizen, I do not want to slip and fall due to the berries on the sloping footpath and driveway.

There are many well established trees in the vicinity of 37 Congdon Street and a suitable replacement tree would add to the amenity of this area for residents and provide habitat for birds.

Yours sincerely

Name	Address
BRIFFITHS W. Griffiths	4/9 Victoria Ave
W. J. J. J. J.	703/1 James Rd. Kalamunda
W. J. J. J. J.	3/24 Acornmore Terrace Cottesloe
W. J. J. J. J.	HSA JOHNSTON ST, PERTH GROVE.
W. J. J. J. J.	6B STARRS RD, QUINNS ROCKS WA 6030
W. J. J. J. J.	MICHELLE COLCATHLIN 526 COOTE ST SOUTH PERTH.
W. J. J. J. J.	W. J. J. J. J. 9 RIVERBEND ST COTTESLOE 6011
.....
.....
.....

TOWN OF COTTESLOE
 29 JUN 2012
 RECEIVED

Mr Carl Askew
 Chief Executive Officer
 Town of Cottesloe
 PO Box 606
 Cottesloe WA 6011

18 June 2012

Dear Mr Askew

Street Tree Removal and Replacement – 37 Congdon St

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There are many well established trees in the vicinity of 37 Congdon Street and a suitable replacement tree would add to the amenity of this area for residents and provide habitat for birds.

Yours sincerely

Name Address

Melie Best	25/7 Beddi Rd Duncraig 6023
M. Best	25/7 Beddi Rd, Duncraig
Mavis Williams	1/7 Beddi Rd Duncraig 6023
W. Elcockford	20/7 " " " "
Jean Towers	23/7 " " " "
Barbara O'Connell	7/7 Trinity Village Duncraig 6023
AND MARTIN	22/T Boodi Rd Duncraig 6023
Leita Ethemelge	3/7 Beddi Rd Duncraig
Judith Goyder	20/7 Beddi Rd Duncraig
Chen Wang	33/7 Beddi Rd Duncraig
Elaine Warner	17 Beddi Rd Duncraig

P E T I T I O N P A G E 3

William Henderson
Winston JAMES

Dick Hawley
Nick Colasanti
Ken Hill

Chris Lampson

Doug MANN

Steve Fletcher

C. Barnett

Kevin Keenan

27 Macee Street Hamersley 6022
19 Hilarion Rd. DUNCRAIG

14 Martindale Cl. Duncraig 6023

284 OPIN DRIVE Stirling 6021

34/10 Williamson way Jogg 6029

8 Boon Way Hamersley 6000

29 GRINSTEAD WAY BALGA 6061

128 WATER TARD DVE Hillary -

30/7 BEDLI ROAD CITESLOE -
DUNCRAIG.

E-mail Message

D12/9870

From: Richard Schroeder [SMTP:rjschroeder3@gmail.com]
To: Letters@postnewspapers.com.au [SMTP:Letters@postnewspapers.com.au]
Cc:
Sent: 4/06/2012 at 5:27 PM
Received: 4/06/2012 at 5:27 PM
Subject: Traffic Blister

What is it with the Cottesloe Council and their fixation to install speed retardants on Broome Street? First they install speed humps on Broome between Forrest and Napier streets and when the residents complained they had them removed - at a \$30,000 plus cost to the Cottesloe tax paying residents. Now they are installing "traffic blisters" on Broome Street between Napier and Eric streets. Again the residents in the immediate area have complained and are asking the Council why they are spending \$29,000 for their installation when the roundabouts at Eric and Napier streets are sufficient to slow down the traffic (POST June 2, 2012)? Aren't there more worthwhile projects to spend tax-payers money on?

And on another note it is surprising the Cottesloe Council would even consider removing large perfectly healthy fig trees on Congdon Street (POST June 2, 2012) when they provide wonderful shade during the summer months. Hasn't it always been a policy in Cottesloe to plant trees rather than chopping them down? And don't forget, if climate change is as real as some of our so called eminent scientists are predicting we will need every bit of shade we can get.

RJ Schroeder

22 Lillian Street

PS And thank you Councillor Yvonne Hart for pointing out that "...the age of people living in Congdon Street or how old their visitors were did not justify cutting down the figs..." And for Councillor Victor Strzina - you are in the South Ward - and so am I - when is the next election?

E-mail Message

012/10693

From: Rowena & Tim [SMTP:renatim1@earthlink.net]
To: council [EX:/O=TOWN OF
COTTESLOE/OU=COTTESLOE/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COUNCIL]
Cc:
Sent: 16/06/2012 at 1:35 PM
Received: 16/06/2012 at 1:35 PM
Subject: Public Submissions Regarding Street tree Removal and Replacement.

Re: Public Notice: Public Submissions Regarding Street tree Removal and Replacement.

Dear Sir/Madame,

Rowena and I are titleholders of 18 and 22 Congdon St, Cottesloe.

Our verge hosts 3 Fig Trees and 2 mature White gums. This letter is to state our position on these trees only.

We have happily co-habited with these tree since we bought the property. They provide a certain amount of shelter and shade from the afternoon sun and wind, and provide a pleasant environment to the numerous birds that live around our area.

Whilst the trees on our verge are not the subject of the Public Notice, our concern is the removal of the Fig Trees at 37, 39 & 41 Congdon St will set a 'precedent' or a general community 'expectation' that Fig Trees are 'bad' trees and should be replaced with 'good/acceptable' trees. That over time, general passer-bys, community attitude and ultimately council pressure could come to bear on the continued existence of the trees that exist on our verge.

We have no desire to seek removal of these trees from our property verge and will vigorously defend against any outside request or attempt to have these trees removed.

We would appreciate acknowledgment of receipt of our Public Notice submission.

Regards

Rowena & Tim Lee

Titleholders: 18 & 22 Congdon St, Cottesloe.

E-mail Message

D12/10452

From: Carl Askew [EX:/O=TOWN OF COTTESLOE/OU=COTTESLOE/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=CARL]
To: Geoff Trigg [EX:/O=TOWN OF COTTESLOE/OU=COTTESLOE/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=Geoff]
Cc: Christy Watterson [EX:/O=TOWN OF COTTESLOE/OU=COTTESLOE/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=Christyw]
Sent: 13/06/2012 at 11:20 AM
Received: 13/06/2012 at 11:20 AM
Subject: FW: STREET TREES REMOVAL

Copy FYI and record as part of the consultation on tree removals/replacement

Carl

From: rosie walsh [mailto:rosierocks_1@hotmail.com]
 Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 10:11 AM
 To: Carl Askew; Mayor-KevinMorgan; Katrina Downes; Greg Boland; Peter Jeanes; Yvonne Hart; Sally Pyvis; Robert Rowell; Victor Strzina
 Subject: STREET TREES REMOVAL

SUBMISSION ON REMOVAL OF TREES:

I do not support the removal of the trees near #37 and #39 Congdon St.

*The argument of the adjoining owners that they "produce a large volume of debris on property, footpath and crossover" is no reason for removal. Most of us have gardens or yards in Cottesloe, which need regular tidying. If residents aren't capable of looking after their patch including the adjoining footpath, then there are plenty of options, including paying a local school child pocket money, to sweep up for them. This is not the business of the council.

*The Officer's argument that "this tree will grow much larger" is ridiculous.

*There appears to be no damage to the area surrounding the trees. Why is the concrete paving not moved away from the base of the trees?

*The reasoning that 'anything that is annoying or a nuisance in our life should be removed' should not be countenanced by the Council.

*There seems to be a propensity in Cottesloe, for making fundamental changes every time one or two people complain to the council, despite the majority of the community having a completely different viewpoint and being happy with the status quo. (This also applies to the troubling 'over-engineering' of our suburb which

seems to have accelerated).

*One of Cottesloe's best assets is its mature trees and I for one, wish there was a policy to stop people from cutting down any trees to make way for developments, as occurs in Sydney. I believe that much of the extensive, over-development of properties is responsible for damaging some street trees.

*While some of the street trees are introduced species, that does not make them invaders and many of them in their maturity are attractive and shady. The fact that they are not native should not mean they must go, to be replaced by local species - that is taking it to the extreme. However, when they reach the end of their life, THEN they could be replaced by natives.

TREES IN OZONE PDE. SPECIFICALLY #46 OZONE.

The above applies.

*The street has established trees on the verges. Are some of the residents wanting to re-design, re-landscape their street? I seem to remember one developer removing his street trees to make for a better view in neighbouring Margaret St. I believe that Cottesloe street trees that are established should be protected.

Rosie Walsh

35 Grant St

Cottesloe.

E-mail Message

D12/9387

From: [Jim Loader \[SMTP:JLoader@stotthoare.com.au\]](mailto:JLoader@stotthoare.com.au)
To: letters@postnewspapers.com.au [SMTP:letters@postnewspapers.com.au]
Cc: [council \[EX:/O=TOWN OF COTTESLOE/OU=COTTESLOE/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COUNCIL\]](mailto:council [EX:/O=TOWN OF COTTESLOE/OU=COTTESLOE/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COUNCIL])
Sent: 25/05/2012 at 8:35 PM
Received: 25/05/2012 at 8:38 PM
Subject: May 26 Edition: Front Page Felon of a fig Article

Attachments: image001.jpg
 image002.gif

Dear Editor

Thank you for publishing the above article and alerting me to the request from the Hutchinsons of Congdon St to have two figs trees removed.

I live at the corner of Congdon and William St where two large figs trees have grown and I am in favour of retaining all the fig trees in Congdon St and elsewhere. They are majestic wonders of nature and it would be very sad to see them destroyed. The fallen berries drop for a relatively short period every year and it is true that they can be slippery if walked on, so it is a good idea to step over or around them or sweep them off the footpath. This inconvenience when measured against the miracle of such magnificent trees occupying our neighbourhood is insignificant.

Best Regards

Jim Loader

Director

Stott + Hoare
Phone (08) 9244 0000

Direct (08) 9244 0021

Mobile 0417 174 924

Fax (08) 9445 7604

HYPERLINK "BLOCKED::http://www.stotthoare.com.au/"www.stotthoare.com.au

Description: cid:image001.jpg@01C9F9A9.27986DA0

HYPERLINK "mailto:kbroun@stotthoare.com.au?subject=Stott%20+%20Hoare%20e-Newsletter%20Registration"Description: Envelope2 Sign up to receive the Stott + Hoare e-Newsletter

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Please also consider the contribution of large leafy trees in using/absorbing vehicle emissions - CO2

Yours faithfully
B. Butler

02/9523

28 May 2012

P.O. Box 715

Claremont 6010

TOWN OF COTTESLOE

30 MAY 2012

RECEIVED

Town of Cottesloe

Broome St 2011

attn Relevant Committee

RE: Post article - FELON FIG.

Dear Committee, I read this article with alarm and a plea to retain street trees; particularly the Morston Bay Fig in Congdon St.

Street trees are for the whole community, not for the individual resident; as residential change of ownership is increasing in frequency (about 7 years?)

all the so called problems enumerated by the residents can be dealt with and are inconsequential in comparison with the shade & beauty of this leafy environment.

Rumbling can be dealt with - concrete packing around joints then herosene.

Sweep the path - one season of fig fall - and a stiffer door mat!!

Morston Council has removed most of these wonderful trees. The southern end of Monument St was an avenue of trees to be proud and worthy of a tourist photo - now no more - just ugly ugly street scape by comparison. Similarly Glyde St. PLEASE DON'T DO IT.

ATTACHMENTS

Do not place attachments over the dotted line

(Woodlands) and Joe Jordanoff (Dunsborough) a few names to

Felon fig

From page 1

Councillors were also asked to approve felling three New Zealand Christmas trees in Ozon Park de
Owner Nomi Quinlivan said the trees were damaging her property

Councillor Greg Boland said council rules had to be followed
"If we remove multiple trees it

performance to beat stablemate Lewy Finnigan in the blue

has to go out for public consultation," Mr Boland said
Councillor Sally Pyvis said she was reluctant to part with any street trees in Cottesloe
"The figs are beautiful trees that provide habitat and shade," she said

Mayor Kevin Morgan said he did not doubt Mrs Hutchinson's account of risk and inconvenience
"People get benefit from the trees," he said

Councillors voted 4-1 to seek public comment on cutting down

Australasian bodyboard titles in November

the trees
Committee chairman Rob Rowell, who voted against, told Mrs Hutchinson it could be two months before a decision on the trees' fate was made

Tree activist and Nedlands resident Alex Jones emailed Cottesloe councillors when she heard about the recommendations to cut them down

"It is absurd to think we should be destroying our mature trees because of an ageing population complaining about cleaning up

know, then that rear and angst will subside"

leaf litter," Ms Jones said
"The Save Our Trees network of concerned residents has been gathering many photos of trees that our councils have woodchipped

"Unsubstantiated claims about the need to remove these trees has made witnessing their destruction particularly frustrating"

Ms Jones said a fig cut down on Cottesloe's Curtin Avenue in 2010 had not disturbed paving

"It would be relatively simple

and difficult, but democracy won

Lydia Giles

From: Lydia Giles
Sent: Wednesday, 11 July 2012 4:44 PM
To: Lydia Giles
Subject: FW:

From: Greg Boland [<mailto:gregboland1@bigpond.com>]
Sent: Sunday, June 03, 2012 4:58 PM
To: BELINDA TARANTO
Cc: Carl Askew
Subject: RE:

Belinda,

Thanks for your contribution on this.
Council resolved on 28 May for this subject to get out for public comment.
I will forward your email to the CEO.
I assume your email can be taken to be your comment (unless you want to add more).
The CEO can let you know if that approach has any difficulties.

Regards,

Cr Greg Boland
Town of Cottesloe
Ph/Fax: 9284 6363
Mob: 0438 265252

-----Original Message-----

From: BELINDA TARANTO [<mailto:belinda.taranto@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, 28 May 2012 11:51 AM
To: mayor@cottesloe.wa.gov.au
Cc: cr.jeanes@cottesloe.wa.gov.au; cr.boland@cottesloe.wa.gov.au; cr.walsh@cottesloe.wa.gov.au;
cr.downes@cottesloe.wa.gov.au; cr.strzina@cottesloe.wa.gov.au; cr.hart@cottesloe.wa.gov.au;
cr.rowell@cottesloe.wa.gov.au
Subject:

Hello

Unfortunately I am unable to make the Council meeting tonight.

However, I just wanted to register my total disbelief about the possible removal of both the Congdon St and also the Ozone Pde trees. I read with great sadness about the possibility of this on the front page of the Post Newspaper. This particular tree is so beautiful - it actually looks like a Streeton painting!

The number of mature trees in Cottesloe is fast dwindling and I find it very sad that these beautiful trees which provide the character of our 'leafy suburb' could be removed.

I find it unbelievable that a few residents whose only complaint it seems is the 'mess' they make (!!) have the ability to perhaps orchestrate these beautiful and established trees to be removed permanently.

Trees do tend to have the habit of dropping leaves but please let us remember the benefits of the provision of shade and habitat for birds and insects in our suburb.

I have witnessed the removal of the beautiful fig tree on Curtin Ave and also the beautiful mature eucalypt on the railway reserve west of the Cottesloe Railway Station (in order to construct an electricity pylon which I'm sure could have been positioned slightly differently in order to accommodate this aged tree) with great sadness. It takes decades for these to grow and once gone, they leave an empty sterile place where they once grew.

With increasingly large building footprints, it makes it even more important to keep the mature trees we have.

I refer to the Cottesloe Council's 'Street Trees Policy'. Part 5

5. Tree removals must be seen as a last resort, used for dead and/or dangerous trees. The Manager Engineering Services must give approval for any tree removal.

The following reasons do not justify tree removals: **tree litter/leaf fall ("messy:" tree),**

restoration of a view,

alternative species requested by resident,

a desire to re-landscape,

house alterations requiring crossover relocation,

shading of lawns, pools,

swimming pool installation – root or falling leaf problems,

perception that tree may fall in a storm.

I would say that the above says it all. What is the point of having such a policy if the council does not abide by it.

Thank you for your time in reading this.

Regards

Belinda Taranto
107 North St
Swanbourne 6010
041 226 9090
(08) 9384 7826

9/69 Hector Street
Osborne Park
Perth W.A.
6017
T 08 9204 1744
F 08 9204 1755



TROJENS & CO PTY LTD
TRADING AS
PROFESSIONAL TREE SURGEONS

Arborist Assessment and Report

Prepared for: **Town of Cottesloe.**

Location: **37, 39 and 41 Congdon St, Cottesloe.**

Dated: **21/6/2012.**



Prepared by
Gulliver Erickson
Cert Arb.

9/69 Hector Street
Osborne Park
Perth W.A.
6017
T 08 9204 1744
F 08 9204 1755

PROFESSIONAL TREE SURGEONS

Table of Contents

1.0 Executive Summary

2.0 Introduction

3.0 Terms of Reference

4.0 Inspection Methods

5.0 The Site

6.0 The Tree

7.0 Recommendations

Disclaimer and Limitations

PROFESSIONAL TREE SURGEONS

1.0 Executive Summary:

- 1.1 This report describes the inspection and assessment of the 2 x *Ficus rubiginosa*, located on the street verge of 37,39 and 41 Congdon Street in the Town of Cottesloe.
- 1.2 The smaller specimen on the left, when facing the properties, has an estimated DBH of 900mm, estimated height of 8m, N/S spread of 10m and E/W spread of 10m. The larger specimen on the right, when facing the properties, has an estimated DBH of 1200mm, estimated height of 12m, N/S spread of 17m and E/W spread of 17m.
- 1.3 Professional Tree Surgeons were called to inspect the trees, and report on their health, stability, potential hazards or associated problems.
- 1.4 It is concluded that the specimens are of sound health and stability, with evidence that problems commonly associated with this species and it's location are occurring.

2.0 Introduction:

- 2.1 The results of the inspection of both the site and the trees are presented. A brief assessment of the current condition of the trees is made, the findings of the inspection are interpreted, and the best course of action to pursue to abate any problems identified is recommended.
- 2.2 The report provides a brief description of the trees, including an estimated circumference when measured at 1m above ground level, the approximate height and radius crown spread (measured at the widest points).
- 2.3 The recommendations made take into consideration the current site location, age and health of the tree.

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3.0 Terms of reference:

- 3.1 Verbal instructions were received on 21/6/12.
- 3.2 The instructions requested a further report on the 2 x Ficus rubiginosa.
 - 3.2.1 An assessment of the trees characteristics and physiology.
 - 3.2.2 An assessment of any factors that might influence the trees health or stability.
 - 3.2.3 Analyses of the hazard present by the location or potential failure of the tree or any part.
 - 3.2.4 Recommendations from any action required to manage the tree.

4.0 Inspection method:

- 4.1 This is a stage 1 'Ground Report'. The trees were inspected from the ground only. A climbing inspection was not performed.
- 4.2 The report reflects the trees as found on the day of inspection. Any changes to the site conditions or surroundings, such as construction works, landscape works, may alter the findings of the report. No soil samples were taken.
- 4.3 The roots were not inspected below ground level.

5.0 The site:

- 5.1 The specimens are growing on the Town of Cottesloe verge, at the above-mentioned properties.
- 5.2 The smaller of the two trees is situated approximately 1200mm from the apron of #37(?) driveway (see figure 1). Damage from roots is obvious and what appears to be repair to the driveway is evident. The larger Ficus is located directly on the edge of the paved driveway of #39(?), clearly displaying evidence of damage from roots (see figure 2). Lifting of curbs, footpath and street are also evident throughout area.
- 5.3 The canopies overhang Congdon Street too the opposite curb and into the 3 x adjacent properties (see figure 3). The larger Ficus clearly touches structure on #39(?) (see figure 4), and it is evident that several large limbs have been pruned back from #41(?).

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Figure 1 shows the distance of the smaller ficus to driveway.



Figure 2 shows trunk in location to driveway.

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Figure 3 shows canopy spread.



Figure 4 shows canopy spread and distance to structure.

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6.0 The trees:

- 6.1 Ficus rubiginosa - Commonly called a Port Jackson Fig.
- 6.2 A spreading densely shading tree, with large buttressed trunks, potentially reaching 30m in height at maturity. Although, due to weather conditions here in Perth and poor soil quality, rarely does the species grow to their full potential. Commonly used as a large ornamental shade tree, throughout Australia in public parks and golf courses. Known to have invasive root systems, drawing large amounts of water year round. A heavy fruiting tree ripening throughout the year, although there is a preponderance from February to July.
- 6.3 The smaller specimen on the left, when facing the properties, has an estimated DBH of 900mm, estimated height of 8m, N/S spread of 10m and E/W spread of 10m. The larger specimen on the right, when facing the properties, has an estimated DBH of 1200mm, estimated height of 12m, N/S spread of 17m and E/W spread of 17m.
- 6.4 The age of these specimens is hard to determine, judging by their size, given location and experience with similar specimens, it would be fair to estimate that these trees could be as many as 60 years old.
- 6.5 General health and vigor of the two specimens appear to be sound and normal for a streetscape planting like this. Structure appears sound, with both trees displaying evidence of continued pruning for road, footpath, structure and private property clearance. Damage to surrounding ground structures is obvious, an extremely common characteristic resulting from the invasive root system of this species. It was also noted, that there is continual problems with drainage systems by tree roots in this area. Although the offending roots have not been "officially" identified, it would be safe to speculate that they originate from these 2 x Ficus.

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7.0 Recommendations:

- 7.1 At this stage, based on my visual observations and findings from the inspection, I would recommend very little to be done to the specimens, other than some selective canopy works.
- 7.2 Although history has proven this species to be a poor choice for verge and urban planting, they do add significant aesthetic value to this streetscape, and aid to the ecological values. Both these being relevant issues, that value, compared to the ongoing maintenance associated with preserving these trees, can really only be decided by the Owner of the trees.
- 7.3 Pruning will need to be done annually, too maintain road and property clearances.
- 7.4 Associated root problems will continue, possibly increasing as the trees mature. Action can assist with these root issues, although the results are often short term with ongoing maintenance and repair being required. Installation of a root barrier to prevent issues with drains would be a costly task, again with the results being a short fix.
- 7.3 I would recommend that if selective canopy works should be undertaken, to:
- a) Remove any major deadwood from the canopy with a diameter 25-35mm or greater.
 - b) Selectively reduce overhang to adjacent properties by reducing limbs back to most suitable growth points no less than 1/3 the diameter of limb being reduced.
 - c) Thin remaining canopy by no more than 10-15% where needed only.

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Notes on canopy works:

No other canopy thinning is considered necessary or recommended to occur at this stage.

A height or canopy reduction is not recommended to occur.

Providing a greater or even full clearance over the boundary to any of the adjacent properties is not considered necessary at this stage or recommended to occur.

A degree of on-site liaison with the nominated contractor would be considered pertinent to discuss the extent and the standard of works required, and to identify the exact branches to be reduced.

All tree works must be undertaken by qualified and experienced tree surgeons, and works are to comply with Australian Standards 4373 (2007); *Pruning of Amenity Trees*.

7.3 A re-inspection of the trees is recommended to be undertaken on an annual cycle.

I have made the above recommendations based on:

The existing health and structural characteristics of the canopy;

The evidence gained from the visual inspection of the structure;

The known natural species characteristics of this species;

The location and proximity of the tree in regards to the identified areas of potential target; and

The level of risk that this tree is expected to pose to the identified areas of potential target once the above recommended works have been undertaken.

Signed:

G. J. Erickson.

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Cert, Arborist.

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Disclaimer and Limitations :

This report only covers identifiable defects present at the time of inspection. The author accepts no responsibility or can be held liable for any structural defect or unforeseen event/situation that may occur after the time of inspection, unless clearly specified timescales are detailed within the report.

The author cannot guarantee trees contained within this report will be structurally sound under all circumstances, and cannot guarantee that the recommendations made will categorically result in the tree being made safe.

Unless specifically mentioned this report will only be concerned with above ground inspections, that will be undertaken visually from ground level. Trees are living organisms and as such cannot be classified as safe under any circumstances. The recommendations are made on the basis of what can be reasonably identified at the time of inspection therefore the author accepts no liability for any recommendations made.

Care has been taken to obtain all information from reliable sources. All data has been verified so far as possible; however, the author can neither guarantee nor be responsible for the accuracy of information provided by others.