

Resource Management Act 1991

**Submission on a Publicly Notified Plan Change
To The Wanganui District Plan**

In accordance with Form 5 – RM (Forms, Fees and Procedure) Regulations 2003

TO: Wanganui District Council, PO Box 637, Wanganui

Name: Diana Anne Anderson

This is a submission on Plan Change No. 31 to the Wanganui District Plan.

Closing Date: 29/11/13

1. (a) **I could not*** gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.
(b) **I am** directly affected by an effect of the subject matter of the submission that adversely affects the environment; and does not relate to trade competition or the effects of trade competition

2. The specific provisions of the proposed plan change that my submission relates to:

Wanganui District Plan Review – Phase 4

Protected Trees, Designations and Verandah Posts

Submitter Name: Wanganui District Council

Submission No: 6.5c31

Summary of WDC submission

Add the avenue of English Oaks planted on Halswell Street Road reserve in 1902 possibly from acorns of the “Windsor Oak”. These trees provide amenity to the environment.

Decision sought by WDC

Addition of the English Oaks on Halswell Street road reserve to the District Plan.

3. My submission is that

I oppose the above submission made by Wanganui District Council to amend the District Plan, on the grounds that the oak trees in Halswell Street, while aesthetically pleasing are becoming extremely unsafe and a risk to life and property.

As a longstanding resident of Halswell Street I have become increasingly concerned about the deteriorating condition of these trees. Recent events during storms have provided evidence that they have not been managed in a way that mitigates the potential hazard to people and property.

In 2002 I wrote to the Council requesting consideration be given to ongoing debulking of the trees (copy of letter attached). I pointed out that previous regular debulking had the effect of maintaining sunlight to properties and reducing leaf and acornfall in the autumn, while retaining the very pleasant canopy and ambience of the street.

However my request was ignored, and since the Council has ceased debulking the trees have grown enormously. Not only have they become high and dense but are also now shedding branches which is natural process in trees of this size and age. This is particularly evident in storms when substantial branches regularly fall to the street. In some cases whole trees have toppled over. The trees also have many “hangers” in their boughs which can fall at any time, irrespective of the weather.

It is only luck that this situation has not yet resulted in serious injury to people, or significant damage to property. This is a popular and busy walking street, for older people, families, children from local early childcare centres and schools, and the general populace. I remind the Council of the recent (September) tragedy in London when a New Zealand woman was killed by a falling tree branch Kew Gardens, and suggest it is highly likely that a similar incident could occur in Halswell Street at any time.

The trees are now huge and severely shading properties on the northern side of Halswell Street. Acorn and leaf drop, and tree litter is a relentless problem for property owners, far more extreme than I previously noted in 2002 when the trees were about a quarter of their current size.

While I fully support retention of the "avenue of oaks" environment of Halswell Street, and would not want to lose the trees, I must oppose adding the Halswell Street oaks to the District Plan unless there is an associated plan to mitigate the safety risks they present, through immediate and careful pruning, debulking and ongoing management.

Use additional pages if required

4. I seek the following decision from the Council (*Give clear details stating what amendments you wish to see*)

Either

- **Do Not** add the avenue of English Oaks planted on Halswell Street Road reserve to the District Plan

Or

- **Add** the Avenue of English Oaks planted on Halswell Street to the District Plan but with an associated requirement to mitigate the safety risks they present.

5. I **do not*** wish to be heard in support of this submission

6. However, if others make a similar submission I **would** be prepared to consider presenting a joint case with them at any hearing .

7. Address for service:

2 Halswell Street
Wanganui



..... **Signature:**

Day time phone No: 0274576076

Email: di.anderson@ero.govt.nz

Date: 19 November 2013

D-255183

2 Halswell Street
WANGANUI

21 October 2002

Wanganui District Council
Private Bag
Wanganui

Dear Sir

Request for trimming of Council owned trees shadowing property at 2 Halswell Street

I have lived at 2 Halswell Street, (formerly 2 Liverpool Street), Wanganui for over 20 years. When we bought this property the Council used to annually debulk the trees in this street to keep them clear of the power lines. This had the effect of maintaining sunlight to properties, and reducing leaf and acorn fall in the autumn, while retaining the very pleasant canopy and 'avenue of oaks' ambience of the street.

However, since the power lines were replaced with a single aerial bunched cable this annual pruning has been limited to trimming at the boundary. This pruning has had the effect of encouraging the trees to grow upward rather than outward, and to bulk up. The trees have grown considerably and are now high and dense. They cast a long shadow over our property, blocking sunlight from our back garden and barbecue area from mid afternoon. The extent of the shadowing has become a greater problem each year as the trees have grown.

In addition the considerable increase in leaf and acorn fall creates a severe problem in autumn, blocking spouting and filling the garden with debris.

I am writing to request that as a good neighbour, the Council top and thin the oak trees in Halswell Street, in particular the three oak trees that are causing this nuisance to our property. These are the 3rd, 4th and 5th trees from Somme Parade, on the right side of Halswell Street (facing St Johns Hill).

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Yours sincerely

Diana Anderson