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Paul Crossley
Leader of the Council
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your ref:

our ref: TW/ scb/misc / Radstock Action Group

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date: 30 November 2012

Initially by email : Paul_Crossley@bathnes.gov.uk

Dear Sirs

Re : The Jubilee Oak Radstock

We have been consulted by the Radstock Action Group who are concerned about your Council's proposed removal of the Jubilee Oak in the heart of Radstock. We understand that work will commence on removing the Jubilee Oak on Monday 3rd December. We further understand from the published action plan that it is proposed to move the oak "to give it the greatest possible chance of survival".

Our clients have taken expert advice from an arboriculturist who specialises in moving trees and they have been told quite categorically that moving an oak tree of some 115 years of age is, to all intents and purposes, impossible, without killing the tree. This is due to the depth of the tap root and other roots beneath the tree which it would be quite impossible to remove in one piece.

To the best of our knowledge, the tree is within a conservation area and we believe that this was in fact confirmed by Jane Brewer of your Council's Arboriculture Department. As such, therefore, it would appear that conservation area consent would be required for the removal of the tree and we are not aware that any such consent has been either applied for or granted. We are also confident that no planning permission has yet been applied for or granted which would include the removal of the tree.

Clearly the removal of the tree is linked with the wider scheme of the Council's road proposals but it is not our instructions to become involved in that issue but merely to ensure that proper procedures are followed so that the community can be given the opportunity of making representations. We understand that already some 300 people have signed a petition condemning the proposed removal of the Jubilee Oak and we trust therefore that the Council will wish to ensure that it follows due process in making any decision on the future of the Jubilee Oak.

In view of the imminent commencement of the proposed works, we shall be pleased to receive your response by return.

Yours faithfully


Thatcher & Hallam LLP

Copy to:-

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