**TPO 1046 Campbell Close MOL/SMNIC: Council Meeting 11th March 2020**

My name is Iain Macqueen and I have lived with my family for over three decades next to The MOL field. My wife sends her apologies and is sorry to miss this meeting and speaking herself as she is not well.

We have not had any disagreements or problems with any of our neighbours and indeed any trouble with previous owners/tenants of the Field including the current owners when they rented. Unfortunately, this changed over the years once they owned the MOL. We were surprised and shocked to see some of the disturbing personal comments in the objections which seem to not understand the full picture of the situation here.

Objectors have asked the question why this blanket TPO was placed and we wish to state that we did not ask for this but that the Officer investigating our query on the Ash Trees decided to issue it which came as a surprise to us. We thought he had been impressed as we were with the magnificence of the trees here and that they deserved a TPO and we were content to let him and Councillors decide the outcome and to see if others wanted to support it and put their views forward for Councillors to debate.

 We had previously tried to get a TPO on the tall trees in the Hedgerow behind Churchview Garages which many supported but did not even get a reply from the Tree Officer so we did not pursue that request and this was not part of our query.

Mr Lineham applied to fell the row of ashes in 2016 and was refused. The reasons he gives now are not those he presented to the Tree Officer then and that Officer and the Committee concluded there was not sufficient reason for their removal.

Our concern was that in October 2019 **Mr Lineham stated in writing on line** that he had received an apology from the Tree Officer as there **was no TPO on the Ash Trees**. He could go ahead with felling whenever he wished to do so as no restrictions applied.

 We do not know when he received that letter and we wanted to see a copy which is why we contacted the Council.

 We were astounded that felling could be done without further supervision and evidence for why they needed to be felled. We wanted protection/supervision on these trees given the original decision for their retention and thought this needed further explanation from the Council.

Mr Ruddick was amazed at the magnificent trees here when he investigated our query and the next thing we heard was the blanket TPO arriving by post.

It was only the presumption of a TPO that saved these Ash Trees for the last four years.

 We have only ever acted in response to real concerns and we will continue to monitor the MOL for any contraventions as there are no Park Officers now and no regular inspections of MOL/SMINC (Metropolitan Open Lan/Site of Metropolitan importance for Nature Conservation) which would take away the burden of relying on neighbours and nature lovers to have to do this

We make no apologies for standing up to contraventions on land which needs to be kept for nature and not turned into residential usage.