

Oliver and Robb Architects LLP

Pitreavie Drive
Pitreavie Business Park
Dunfermline
KY11 8UH.

14th January 2025

Dear Gary,

Landscape proposal at Guysfield Care Home, Letchworth

Following our call today, we felt it would be useful to clarify the tree planting strategy for the Northern boundary of the proposed new care home at Guysfield.

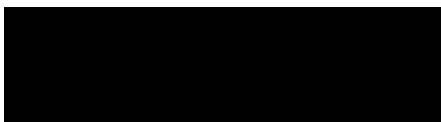
The proposal will be to remove the existing, overgrown conifers along the boundary. The conifers are large and it will be difficult to prune them adequately and maintain a healthy and attractive outlook, their height creates a lot of shade in the residential gardens beyond the boundary. The conifers are relatively close to the surrounding buildings and their roots have the potential to impact building foundations. The conifers extract a large amount of moisture from the surrounding soil, which means it is difficult to grow anything significant below them.

The proposal is to plant Standard Ilex aquifolium (Common Holly) along the boundary which will offer a native, evergreen solution. The clear stems of the trees will be approximately 1.8 metres to 2 metres with a head on top of at least 1 metre providing an overall planted height of approximately 3 metres, although the final specification is to be confirmed. The Holly will be more suitable to the location /vicinity to buildings and with regular pruning an attractive and manageable backdrop will be achieved. The holly trees offer a vital food source for many birds, particularly the berries during the Winter months when other food sources are scarce.

We strongly believe that the replacement of the conifers with the proposed specimen holly trees will have a positive impact upon the landscape and the surrounding area. It will offer a sustainable long term solution that is attractive for the wildlife and also improve the light quality in the residential gardens beyond the care home boundary.

If you have any queries or would like to discuss further, we will be happy to assist.

With kind regards



Dan Bowyer
Director