Letter to the Vale of Glamorgan objecting to Planning Application 2015/01449/FUL. Northcliffe Lodge, Northcliffe Drive, Penarth.

I raised objections to the first planning application. As my concerns have not been addressed in this subsequent application I am raising the same objections again and adding more evidence in support. I live in 5 Paget Place – opposite the proposed development.

I object to the planning application – specifically the proposal to fell over 38 mature trees, most of them perfectly healthy trees that provide a habitat for wildlife and birds and provide us all with oxygen. I appreciate that a tree replacement scheme is included in the planning application but I think the felling of healthy, mature and large trees to be replaced by seedlings of smaller species of trees is absolutely disgraceful. The replacement trees will take many decades to grow and the species selected will never grow to the height and magnificence of the perfectly healthy trees that the developers propose to cut down.

As I live in a neighbouring property I am directly affected. I live opposite the current entrance to Northcliffe flats. At present the flats are nicely screened from my view (and from the road) by evergreen trees. In the planning application these trees will be felled. I will then be looking out from my house onto concrete and more concrete rather than on the existing woodland and clumps of lovely, large mature trees which support birds and life.

I am very concerned about the continual and systematic felling of mature and perfectly healthy trees in Penarth. In St. Augustine’s Ward in particular it seems that all mature, healthy trees are at risk. We will all be looking at a very different townscape if this destruction continues. I want to retain the historic and grand trees of Penarth and the ambience they create for the ‘garden by the sea’.

As a member of the Tree Forum in Penarth (sub-group of the Penarth Civic Society) I have had sight of Tree canopy cover surveys that Natural Resources Wales produce on a local authority and Local Super Output Area (LSOA) levels. These canopy surveys are done periodically and are able to provide a record of how the canopy cover in Wales is changing over time. At a recent meeting of the Penarth Tree Forum - Natural Resources Wales estimated that based on the new canopy survey that is currently being prepared for publication - over 5,000 large trees have been lost from Wales since the 2009 canopy survey. A look at the results of the 2009 Canopy Cover survey of Penarth (see attached) shows that the highest density of tree canopy cover in the whole of Penarth is in St. Augustine’s 1 Ward. The destruction of the woodland proposed in this planning application (Northcliffe Lodge) which is in St. Augustine’s Ward 1 – along with the felling of 19 more large mature trees on the neighbouring Headlands site, also in St.Augustine’s Ward 1 (subject to another current planning application to the Vale of Glamorgan because some of these Trees are subject to Tree Preservation Orders - 2016/00773/TPO) will represent a huge decline in the % tree canopy cover in St. Augustine’s Ward where I live.

I strongly object to the destruction of the 38 mature trees in this planning application and ask the Council to consider rejecting the application unless the number of trees to be felled is reduced significantly. This I believe might be possible, if the developers considered a different access route. I am not against the development of housing *per se* – it is the unnecessary destruction of mature, healthy trees that have taken decades to grow and cannot readily be replaced in a generation – that I object to.

Yours sincerely,

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