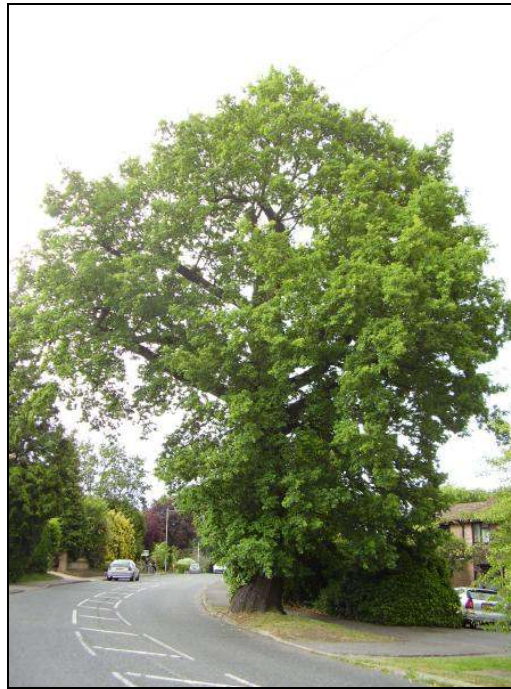


English Oak, Woosehill Lane, Wokingham MRN 2802

Memories of a campaign to save this tree in the 1960's May 13th 2012

By Peter Harms



My involvement with the tree in question is slightly complex. When I moved to Westward Road with my family some 50 years ago, Woosehill as we now know it didn't exist. It was mainly farmland given over to a sheep farmer and the only plans the Council had were eventually to create Riverside Walk by the Emm Brook. Old Woosehill Lane stopped near that tree and a footpath continued from that point to Woosehill Lane at the location now known as Smith's Walk.

When discussions started on building houses on the land there was a lot of concern from existing residents, including those of us in Westward Road. Residents' Associations sprung up, including ours, to monitor what was going on and when the things started to gel, the Spine Road appeared on the plans with Old Woosehill Lane continuing as a straight line 'through' that tree.

I was the prime mover in our Residents' Association to have the road line altered to avoid damaging the tree. Representations were made to the then planning committee and of course there was a lengthy Public Inquiry where I gave evidence on potential traffic noise. And the road line was subsequently altered as it is today. I am afraid it was such a long time ago that I don't have any paperwork to record what went on at the time. It's just my memory!