

Recommendation: **GRANT TPO CONSENT**

5 Statutory and Non Statutory Consultations

Councillor Gary Hughes

Councillor Husky Patel

Councillor Ms C Howard - Purbrook Ward

6 Community Involvement

This application was publicised in accordance with the Council's Code of Practice for Publicity of Planning Applications approved at minute 207/6/92 (as amended), as a result of which the following publicity was undertaken:

Number of neighbour notification letters sent: 7

Number of site notices: 1

Statutory advertisement: Not applicable.

Number of representations received: 0

Comment	Officer Comment

7 Planning Considerations

7.1 Having regard to the relevant policies of the development plan it is considered that the main issues arising from this application are:

- Whether the degree of pruning works requested would undermine the amenity value of these trees and whether this could also be harmful to their ongoing health and vitality.

7.2 My inspection related specifically to assessing the proposed works rather than generally inspecting the tree's health and condition in any great detail. I visually inspected the tree from ground level and the following report deals with the relevant issues that have been raised on site, in the application form and from my site observations.

7.3 This application relates to the proposed works to trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order. Both these beeches, which are of modest overall quality, appear to have had heavy pruning in the distant past (hopefully prior to being TPO'd) as a result of which the crowns are dense and small branched. This view is based purely on seeing the trees via google streetview, in leaf. Therefore there is a possibility that there may be weak unions and decay pockets which would mean that maintenance pruning to keep crown size in check would be judicious. I have emailed the agent to check if they are sure that a 2m reduction is practicable by rope access (looking at the trees the branchwork is quite fine and access to within 2m of branch ends could be challenging) and also asked them if the crown raising over the road could be reduced to 5.2m - in line with highway regs - as a 7m crown raise is rather high.

They have emailed me back to say they are satisfied that a 2m reduction is achievable with rope access and they are happy with the description being changed to a 5.2m lift, both trees. They have also confirmed that the 2m reduction applies to the height and to the radius, so it is a 2m reduction all round (4m reduction in diameter). Their email is below:

Hi Andrew

We should be able to climb the trees by rope access. Should be able to reduce by 2 mtrs give or take a bit. Yes we will be reducing 2 mtrs all over. We will only crown raise over highway to 5.2 metres.

Many thanks

Dave Farrington

Sycamore Tree Surgeons

8 **Conclusion**

The proposed works are considered to be appropriate and proportional, therefore permission should be granted.

9 **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Head of Neighbourhood Support be authorised to **GRANT TPO CONSENT** for application APP/20/01193

(A)

(B) for the following reasons/subject to the following conditions

1 The tree works for which consent is hereby granted shall not be carried out otherwise than in full accordance with all relevant content of BS 3998 (2010).
Reason: In the interests of tree health and safety.

2 The tree works for which consent is hereby granted shall be carried out and

completed no later than 10/03/2022

Reason: To control the timing of the works