
Site Address: Fairfield Infant School, Fairfield Road, Havant, PO9 1AY
Proposal: Fell 2No. Horse Chestnut trees (T1 and T2), crown lift to 3m over footpath and 5m over road on 1No. Beech tree (T3), crown lift 1No. Sycamore (T4) over shed to give 2m clearance, crown lift 1No. Sycamore (T5) off building to give 2m clearance, crown lift 1No. Sycamore (T6) to 5m over car parking area, crown lift to 2m 2No. Sorbus Aria (T7), fell 1No. unknown species tree (T8), prune branches away from neighbouring buildings on 2No. Sycamore (T9 and T10) to give 2m clearance, coppice to 1m 1No Willow (failed multi stemmed tree)(T11), coppice to 1m 1No. Willow (T12), coppice to 1m 1No. Willow (failed tree)(T13) and coppice to 1m 1No. Willow (storm damaged tree)(T14), within Conservation Area St Faiths.

Application No: APP/20/01015

Expiry Date: 21/12/2020

Applicant: Mr North

Hampshire County Council

Agent:

Case Officer: Maria Stewart

Ward: St Faiths

Recommendation: **RAISE NO OBJECTION**

1 Site Description

Fairfield Infant School, Fairfield Road, Havant, PO9 1AY

2 Planning History

00/59130/006 - Reduce eastern sector by a maximum of 3 metres, crown raise up to 3 metres the southern, northern and eastern sectors and crown raise the western sector by 2.5 metres over the footpath and 5 metres over the road of a Horse Chestnut (TA on attached plan). Removal of lowest westerly limb of diameter 100mm in girth and remove second lowest easterly limb of 75mm in girth of a Sycamore (TB on attached plan)., RNO,23/01/2001

98/59130/005 - Notification of the intention to crown lift and prune off six branches of a Horse

Chestnut tree on the south-west corner of Fairfield School. Also crown lift a Malus and fell a Lime tree both in the frontage of Fairfield School. All trees within St Faith's Conservation Area., RNO,01/05/1998

97/59130/004 - Notification of intention to fell one Prunus and one Sorbus in front lawn area of

school within St Faiths Conservation Area, RNO,13/08/1997

96/59130/003 - Removal of 1 Bay tree within St Faiths Conservation Area, RNO,19/11/1996

94/59130/001 - Notification of intention to reduce crown of Pollarded Lime tree within St. Faith

conservation area., RNO,16/06/1994

94/59130/002 - Extension to accommodate new staff room, pupils and adult lavatories and store, PERM,04/07/1994

03/59130/007 - Consultation by Hampshire County Council for new reception., WD,10/11/2003

APP/10/00262 - Crown lift to 3.5m and crown reduce by 2m 1No. Horse Chestnut tree and crown raise Copper Beech tree to 3.5m, within St Faiths Conservation Area., RNO,21/07/2010

GEN/11/00326 - Landscape project, ,23/03/2011

APP/16/00119 - Remove major deadwood 1No. Sycamore (T6) and reduce lateral branch to create 3m clearance from neighbouring dwelling. Remove all major deadwood and Ivy 3No. Sycamores (T8 - T10). Reduce lowest lateral branch over playground 1No. Sycamore (T11) and removal all major deadwood and sever Ivy. Create pollard at 3.5m on overextended branch 1No. Sycamore (T12). Within Conservation area of St Faiths., RNO,14/03/2016

APP/16/00953 - Remove 1No. Pittosporum; reduce by 2m overall and crown lift to 4m 1No. Yew; reduce by 2m overall and crown lift to 4m 1No. Bay; cut back branch (south west sector), overhanging garage area by 3m 1No. Acer, all within Conservation Area of St Faiths., RNO,21/10/2016

APP/16/01259 - Crown reduce 1No. Horse Chestnut (T1) from tips by up to 3m to suitable live growth points, crown lift over road to 6m from ground level and remove major deadwood. Crown reduce 1No. Chestnut (T4) from tips by up to 5m to suitable live growth points, crown lift over road to 6m and remove major deadwood. Both trees within Conservation Area of St Faiths., WD,11/01/2017

GEN/17/00083 - Tree works to two Horse Chestnut Trees – high percentage crown reductions to reduce the potential risk of limb failure. , UNK,18/01/2017

GEN/17/00113 - Further works to small Chestnut tree - DD exemption., ,31/01/2017

APP/17/00350 - Fell 1No. Bay Laurel, within Conservation Area of St Faith's , RNO,27/04/2017

3 Proposal

Fell 2No. Horse Chestnut trees (T1 and T2), crown lift to 3m over footpath and 5m over road on 1No. Beech tree (T3), crown lift 1No. Sycamore (T4) over shed to give 2m clearance, crown lift 1No. Sycamore (T5) off building to give 2m clearance, crown lift 1No. Sycamore (T6) to 5m over car parking area, crown lift to 2m 2No. Sorbus Aria (T7), fell 1No. unknown species tree (T8), prune branches away from neighbouring buildings on 2No. Sycamore (T9 and T10) to give 2m clearance, coppice to 1m 1No Willow (failed multi stemmed tree)(T11), coppice to 1m 1No. Willow (T12), coppice to 1m 1No. Willow (failed tree)(T13) and coppice to 1m 1No. Willow (storm damaged tree)(T14), within Conservation Area St Faiths.

4 Policy Considerations

National Planning Policy Framework
Havant Borough Council Borough Design Guide SPD December 2011
Havant Borough Council Parking SPD July 2016

Havant Borough Local Plan (Core Strategy) March 2011
DM8 (Conservation, Protection and Enhancement of Existing Natural Features)

Havant Borough Local Plan (Allocations) July 2014

Havant Borough Pre Submission Local Plan 2036

Listed Building Grade: Not applicable.

Conservation Area: St Faiths

5 Statutory and Non Statutory Consultations

Councillor D Guest - St Faith's

Councillor J Branson - St Faiths

Councillor T Pike - St Faith's

Landscape Team, Havant Borough Council

Planning Application APP/20/01015 Fairfield Infant School, Fairfield Road, Havant, PO9 1AY

Fell 2No. Horse Chestnut trees (T1 and T2), crown lift to 3m over footpath and 5m over road on 1No. Beech tree (T3), crown lift 1No. Sycamore (T4) over shed to give 2m clearance, crown lift 1No. Sycamore (T5) off building to give 2m clearance, crown lift 1No. Sycamore (T6) to 5m over car parking area, crown lift to 2m 2No. Sorbus Aria (T7), fell 1No. unknown species tree (T8), prune branches away from neighbouring buildings on 2No. Sycamore (T9 and T10) to give 2m clearance, coppice to 1m 1No Willow (failed multi stemmed tree)(T11), coppice to 1m 1No. Willow (T12), coppice to 1m 1No. Willow (failed tree)(T13) and coppice to 1m 1No. Willow (storm damaged tree)(T14), within Conservation Area St Faiths.

From a landscape perspective the loss of the 2 no. large mature Horse Chestnuts will have a detrimental impact on the landscape character of Fairfield Road. Whilst we appreciate and accept the conclusion to fell the tree due the poor state of health I earnestly implore to you that 2 no. UK native legacy tree and planted as replacements. As custodians of our landscape it is our responsibility that future generations can enjoy the unique character of Snt Faiths.

I would be happy to give advice on species, tree pit detailing etc. to ensure the vernacular is retained.

Kind regards,

Harry Mitchell CMLI
Landscape Architect
Havant Borough Council
Email ?harry.mitchell@havant.gov.uk

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: 21

Number of site notices: 1

Statutory advertisement: Not applicable.

Number of representations received: 11

Comment	Officer Comment
Has an arborists report been carried out on the extent of the root system for the trees being removed? Including any possible damage to neighbouring structures as the roots die back?	he tree has been inspected by a qualified arborist.
I live in Beechworth Road around the corner from Fairfield School. The mature trees around these roads define the areas character. Hence Havant Council saw fit to make it a conservation area. Hence we as residents are confided to strict rules around that we are or are not allowed to do to the houses in the roads. Chestnut trees live for between 200 to 800 years. The school was built around 1860, so the trees were there before the school. It could be argued that these trees are still young. Additionally, they were possible there when the Fairfield was a yearly fair held over two days in October for the people of Havant. Hugely historical in regards to local history. I believe that to fell these two trees would fundamentally alter the complete character of the street scene, for the worse and would mean destroying a significant historical location. Are the council sure that the trees are diseased (probably not helped by previously enclosing their trunks with tarmac)?	Noted however the trees are not at the end of their safe useful life expectancy.

Even if that were the case should they not be reduced and the trunks left in situ? Over the last 60 years Havant has been denuded of it's former historical loveliness. The ill thought out 60's planning and building mistakes and the Meridian Centre still haunt us today. With no forward solution, the damage done by planners to Havant is a disgrace. To now further destroy what little is left of worth is a criminal act in my opinion. I appreciate the safety aspect of the trees, but this could be managed by careful and selective reduction and on-going monitoring of these trees. Which hitherto now have survived many a ferocious storm and whatever humans can throw at them. I strongly disagree with this decision and urge it to be looked at again and another solution found. To many this will be a minor issue, but if we keep destroying the environment of any nature and natural history, there will simple be nothing left. There is little history left in Havant anyway. I object to this in the strongest terms and know that many people living in Havant will also agree that is is the completely wrong thing to do. Due to the strength of local feeling this should be looked at again and other solutions considered. The removal of these trees is a mistake and their important and history should be considered more carefully before this decision is allowed.	
I am the owner of one of the properties adjacent to Fairfield Infant School. Very large sycamore tree branches located in the school playground overhang our garden and have now grown to an extent the branches overhang and contact buildings on our property, and risk damage to them. In windy or stormy weather smaller branches fall into our garden and we are concerned about greater damage.	This is a matter for HCC.

I wonder why these trees have not also been included for pruning or crowning in the application, when this bordering our neighbour's property have been, and would like the Council to add them into the proposed plans .	
This is a tragedy. Those trees have protected children for centuries and form part of the history of Havant where they would have sat on the edge of the Fair Field. Surely they can be protected or preserved in some way? If you are insistent on removing all of the history of Havant then at least give the wood to the Havant Shed so something beautiful can be made from it, perhaps for the school.	Noted, however sadly these trees are now at a stage where they can not be safely maintained.
Hello, I utterly object to the proposed tree felling. These very old trees are a source of great pleasure to all, they provide an excellent educational boost for the children at the school with abundant wildlife and the fun of conkers later in the year. Not only that they give pleasure to those passing by, shelter and more. The impact of this proposed vandalism would be felt for generations and must be opposed at all costs.	Noted.
I strongly object to the felling of trees at Fairfield school, the trees are not only historic but in the current climate crisis I object strongly with removal of trees.	Noted
In these times of climate change i feel this is a disgrace to remove these trees.	Noted
I object to these plans due to the age and history that these trees hold. Not only are they an important part of the history that enriches our town, but they are likely a busy and diverse nature habitat for many species in that area. I believe that if these trees are diseased as stated, more should be done to care for, prune and maintain them. Moreover, the children that attend Fairfield school should see and be	Noted

taught that nature is to be respected, considered and cared for- not disposed of at every earliest convenience.	
Please think again about felling those beautiful trees outside Fairfield School. They have been there all my lifetime and much longer. They are part of the dwindling historic beauty of Havant and should be preserved for future generations if at all possible.	Sadly these trees are now in a condition and position where maintaining them is not a viable option.
Leave those trees alone. Environmentally important!!!!!! Not in anyones way.	Noted
I object to the felling of healthy trees (t1&t2) due to their age and historical significance to Havant and Fairfield School. They provide sanctuary and homes for many species of insects and birds. They help protect the environment by absorbing CO2.	The trees are no longer healthy.

Summary:

Comment:

7 Planning Considerations

7.1 To give some history to the site and trees - in 2016 and 2017 – We resisted the felling of these trees which were at that time moving into decline and advised HCC on management practice who then undertook significant works to reduce the risk of limb failure and retain the trees. (We knew at that point this time would be limited but due to their importance we explored every avenue and felt there was an option for and acceptable level of safe retention)

Both Horse Trees are suffering extensive phytophthora damage / bleeding canker in the main stems and primary structural limbs, they display multiple tight forks and poor unions throughout the canopies. They are exuding and deteriorating at the old pollard points. Very sadly it is the end of safe useful life expectancy for these large and significant old trees.

They stand in an area where large numbers of children and parents gather at school opening and closing times everyday and where traffic may often queue for the railway crossing as well as overhanging a generally well used footpath. The risk of injury from structural failure is very high and represents what can be classified as a foreseeable risk.

In their condition and position a TPO for these trees would not be sustainable, had they been located in an area where people do not enter then they maybe able to slowly decline and fail giving continued habitat to nature.

Sadly in this instance we have no choice other than to raise no objection to the felling and encourage HCC to replant with new native trees to ensure that we retain canopy cover in the area.

. the willows (goat willow) 11-14 are very much substandard and it would not be reasonable to refuse coppicing. T8 is a dead elderberry.

8 Conclusion

Raise no objection

9 RECOMMENDATION:

That the Head of Neighbourhood Support be authorised to **RAISE NO OBJECTION** for application APP/20/01015.