

Recommendation: **REFUSE TPO CONSENT**

Councillor R Kennett

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: 8

Number of site notices: 1

Statutory advertisement: Not applicable.

Number of representations received: 1

Comment	Officer Comment
This tree is subject to TPO 0891. It has recently (2017) been trimmed and rotten branches have been removed. The application makes no mention of cutting back the tree for these reasons. The photographs show that the application has apparently been made to allow a better view towards Chichester Harbour from their house. Does this constitute a valid reason for this tree surgery?	Comments noted.

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 to undertake work to a tree protected by a Tree Preservation Order relates to the proposed pruning of one mature Oak tree located in Curlew Close, Emsworth. The main stem is within a grass verge next to highway, with its canopy extending over the road and the adjoining property's rear garden.

The applicant is not the owner of the tree and has made the application as their view of the harbour is disappearing.

One objection to the application has been received, the grounds of the objection are:-

- The tree has recently been trimmed and dead wood removed
- Does the loss of a view constitute a valid reason for tree surgery

The Arboricultural Officer comments that as far as it was reasonable to see the tree appeared to have good vigour and vitality for its age and species. There is little dead wood in the canopy and it has a well balanced crown. The tree is a prominent feature in the street scene and is considered to have significant public amenity value.

Whilst the reasons for the application are noted, there is no sound arboricultural reason given for the proposed pruning. Reducing the western sector of the tree purely to obtain a view is not considered to be sufficient reason to grant permission.

8 Conclusion

At this time, the work proposed is not considered to be appropriate or necessary in arboricultural terms and the application should therefore be refused.

9 RECOMMENDATION:

That the Head of Neighbourhood Support be authorised to **REFUSE TPO CONSENT** for application APP/19/00610 for the following reason

- 1 The tree is a significant feature in the local landscape and appears to be in adequately sound and healthy condition. The tree has a well balanced crown and there is no sound arboricultural reason given for the proposed pruning. Reducing the western sector of the tree purely to obtain a view is not considered to be sufficient reason to grant permission. It is therefore contrary to policy DM8 of the Havant Borough Local Plan (Core Strategy) 2011 and the National Planning Policy Framework 2018.