

Dear Jamie,

Trentham House, 4 Tower Street, Emsworth, PO10 7BH

APP/18/00600 – Fell 3 No. Bay and 1 No. Crab Apple. All trees within conservation area of Emsworth

Fully delegated Officer decision from Chichester Harbour Conservancy

Recommendation – No objection. In the spirit of climate change, I would be good if the applicant could carry out some replacement tree planting in the back garden to mitigate the loss of these trees.

I firstly apologise for the delay in replying, due to staff shortage and needing to prioritise Committee and enforcement work. Notwithstanding the application having been determined, the Conservancy would like the council to have its comments for the electronic record.

Following a site visits made 27.6.18 and 14.8.18, having regard to the Policy framework* below, it is noted that these trees are clearly visible, very close to the house. Despite this, they are still thought to have some amenity value and contribute to the character and appearance of Emsworth Conservation Area.

It is not known whether any of these trees proposed to be felled contains a bat roost, although I could not see any obvious cavities in these fairly slender tree stems. This ought to be established if the trees are to be felled and any works not carried out in the bird breeding/nesting season.

I could see that the boundary wall was bowing out, presumably influenced by tree growth, albeit no arboricultural consultant's nor structural engineer's report has been prepared to support the application and answers to question 8 on the form suggest the tree is in good health. This wall gets a specific mention in the Historic England List description of this Grade II Listed Property.

It is noted that under applications 94/52799/008, 96/52799/009, 03/52799/016 & APP/13/01027, other works have been sought in the past, but relating to Sycamore trees on the plot's rear boundary, although it is difficult to tell what trees the 1994 application related to, as details are not given on the council's website. The Conservancy does not appear to have been consulted about the 2013 application.

I note the council's tree officer's opinion as to the relative quality of the trees to be lost. Other trees in the street will remain, so overall the character and appearance of the Conservation Area will be preserved and the setting and visual appreciation of this Grade II Listed Building will be improved.

Yours sincerely

Steve Lawrence MRTPI,
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Chichester Harbour Conservancy,
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