

Statutory advertisement: Not applicable.

Number of representations received: 1

Comment	Officer Comment
Does "cavities" suggest a potential bat or bird roost? Is a climbing inspection necessary immediately before the work is done?	The tree will receive an inspection for wild life prior to any works being undertaken.

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 The application relates to a mature Horse Chesnut tree located in amenity land off Old Copse Lane. The tree has partial views from the street scene due to other mature species lining the boundaries of the land. However, within the amenity land itself, it possesses unrestricted views and has a high public amenity value to those who may use the open space.

The base is surrounded by grassland and there are no visible signs of poor basal condition. The rootplate is raised and partially visible above ground level. The crown is suffering from excessive leaf miner damage, however the tree still possesses a dense foliage. The primary limb on the eastern sector has evidence of decay as well as the

presence of several cavities, posing a significant risk to the public using the open space. The proposed reduction of the limb would minimise the risk of the limb's failure due to this structural weakness. Since the application specifies maximum wounds of 100mm, this would not cause significant detriment to the health of the tree and this would be offset on the grounds of safety. These works would not cause significant detriment to the amenity value of the tree and any loss of amenity must be weighed against safety considerations. The proposed works would help to extend the helpful lifespan of the tree.

8 **Conclusion**

Recommend Permission

9 **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Head of Neighbourhood Support be authorised to **GRANT TPO CONSENT** for application APP/17/00842

(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 pruning/surgery for which consent is hereby granted shall not exceed the following: Reduce primary limb approximately half way up East side by 3m cutting only into wood 100mm in diameter or less 1No. Horse Chestnut tree (T1) subject to TPO 1488.
Reason: To safeguard the health and well being of the tree(s) and its/their importance in the local landscape.
- 3 The tree works for which consent is hereby granted shall be carried out and completed no later than 25/09/18.
Reason: To control the timing of the works