

Recommendation: **RAISE NO OBJECTION**

Landscape Team

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: 3

Number of site notices: 1

Statutory advertisement: Not applicable.

Number of representations received: 1

Comment	Officer Comment
No reason is given for the tree works. The application states that these trees are not diseased or causing damage.	This is a Section 211 Notification for Conservation Area Trees and legislation states that a reason for works are not required.

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.

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.

This notification relates to a number of mature trees located within the rear garden of a property in Grove Road, which falls within the conservation area of St Faiths. The trees possess partially restricted views from Grove Road, however the trees can be viewed easily from Juniper Close that adjoins the rear boundary of the garden, as well as from a public footpath that runs parallel with the property's western boundary. Therefore they possess a good level of public amenity and contributes well to the aesthetic quality of the conservation area.

The first of the proposed works apply to a medium sized Larch tree, which is the closest of the trees to the building. The crown has a northern bias towards the property. The crown possesses sparse foliage and is a poor specimen of the species. There are signs of previous pruning and the tree is displaying reduced vigour and vitality. The tree is in a state of decline and while it possesses a high visual amenity from the public footpath, it would fail to meet with the criteria to justify a defensible TPO due to its condition and its unsustainable position so close to the dwelling. The proposed felling would allow more natural light into the property and provide more space in a relatively small residential garden.

The Whitebeam is located close to the south western corner of the garden and its crown is highly visible to the pedestrian traffic along the public footpath. The crown is medium sized and appears to be displaying normal vigour and vitality. The proposed works for a crown reduction of 1m overall would be considered well within reasonable cyclical management for a tree of this size and location, without causing detriment to its health or the public amenity value.

This large, mature Sycamore is located close to the rear, southern boundary line. The crown is highly visible from Juniper Close to the rear and has passing views from Grove Road due to its significant height. The lower crown is in close proximity to the Whitebeam tree mentioned above. There are signs of previous pruning within the canopy and the crown appears to be displaying normal vigour and vitality. The canopy is top heavy and has a slight bias towards the north west. The proposed height reduction of 4m and lateral reductions of 1.5m would reshape the crown and reduce shading to the surrounding gardens and properties. This would not cause detriment to the health of the tree, the visual amenity that the tree provides to the street scene or to the aesthetic integrity of the conservation area. The works would provide a reasonable level of cyclical management for a tree of this size and maturity.

8 Conclusion

Raise No Objection

9 RECOMMENDATION:

That the Head of Neighbourhood Support be authorised to **RAISE NO OBJECTION** for application APP/17/00824 subject to the following conditions