

Havant Borough Local Plan (Allocations) July 2014

Listed Building Grade: Not applicable.
Conservation Area: Not applicable.

5 Statutory and Non Statutory Consultations

Councillor Brenda Linger - Hayling West

Councillor Julie Richardson

Councillor Paul Gray

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: 11

Number of site notices: Not applicable.

Statutory advertisement: Not applicable.

Number of representations received: 0

Comment	Officer Comment

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 The report relates specifically to assessing the proposed works rather than generally inspecting the tree's health and condition in any great detail.

7.3 Trees 1-3 are part of a row of pollarded poplar trees on the road frontage to St Helens Road. They are in a regular re-pollarding regime. The proposal is to reduce the height of the pollard knuckles to below the existing ones for reasons of removing squirrel drays which are problematic to the resident.

7.4 The trees are early mature and appear to be in good condition.

7.5 The proposed works are in direct contravention to the British Standard which states: '*Cuts should be made below the knuckles **only in exceptional circumstances**, e.g. to prevent catastrophic failure.*' The reasons stated are for control of vermin, not related to the stability of the trees.

7.6 A condition of the consent is that works adhere to the British Standard so it is contrary to the guidance to permit works – vermin are not considered exceptional circumstances. In this case, removing the pollard knuckles will harm the trees' ongoing health and vitality.

7.7 It is likely the squirrels will abandon the drays when the trees are repollarded. If not, it is recommended that alternative solutions are sought, for example physically removing the drays and painting the freshly repollarded heads and tree stems with a chilli sauce/petroleum jelly mix or proprietary spray repellent – these usually contain an extract of chilli.

7.8 The proposed works to cut below the pollard knuckle would have a detrimental impact on the amenity value of the area, and wildlife, and would not be in accordance with Policy CS16 and DM8.1 of the Core Strategy (2011).

7.9 The repollarding of the trees back to the pollard knuckle is a recognised management technique and is reasonable.

8 Conclusion

It is recommended that the works to the trees should be granted a split decision subject to conditions.

9 RECOMMENDATION:

That the Executive Head of Place be authorised to **REFUSE TPO CONSENT** for application APP/23/00553 to the following works:

Cutting of 3.No Poplar trees with pruning between 0.15 and 0.3 meters below previous

pollarding points.

- The tree is an important feature in the local landscape and appears to be in good physiological and structural condition. The proposed works would result in undue loss and detriment to the visual amenities of the locality and local wildlife. It is therefore contrary to policy CS16 and DM8.1 of the Havant Borough Core Strategy 2011 and the National Planning Policy Framework.

That the Executive Head of Place be authorised to **GRANTS TPO CONSENT** for application APP/23/00553 to the following works:

Repollarding of 3.No Poplar trees to previous pollarding points, keeping pollard knuckles intact and leaving no stubs to support drays.

- 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 works for which consent is hereby granted shall be carried out and completed no later than one year from the date of this decision notice.
Reason: To control the timing of the works