

5 Statutory and Non Statutory Consultations

Councillor Grainne Rason

Councillor Lulu Bowerman

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: 27

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 the ongoing health and vitality of the trees.

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

Both subject trees stand in a linear group that stands between the western rear gardens of properties in Horndean Road, and the eastern rear gardens of properties in Acorn Grove. Acorn Grove is owned and managed by Vivid Housing Association. The trees are individually protected under tree preservation order 2096. The trees are small mature English oaks, and a detailed survey has been carried out on the trees by Ruskins Tree Consultancy, an independent arboricultural consultancy practice, on behalf of Vivid Housing.

Both trees were found to have decay causing fungi present, and subsequent diagnostic tests have revealed the presence of decay and hollowing present in the trees.

The recommendation is to reduce the overall size of both trees in an attempt to retain them as smaller specimens.

The trees are prominent and provide visual amenity, canopy cover and contribute to the ecosystem services of the area.

7.6 The reasons proposed for the pruning works are to reduce the size of the trees to alleviate stress on the tree stems and root systems, whilst reducing the effect of end-weighted branches.

The proposed pruning works appear to be reasonable in this case.

7.11 The application form does not offer any concerns over the health and condition of the trees.

8 **Conclusion**

It is recommended that the works on the trees should be granted consent subject to conditions.

9 **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Executive Head of Place be authorised to **GRANT TPO CONSENT** for application APP/23/01070 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 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.