

APP/22/00001 Comment from Havant Borough Tree Wardens

12 mature trees will be lost if this site is developed

The line of 7 poplars T46-52 alone each year store 2625kg of carbon dioxide, intercept 3m² of water and improve the air quality by 58g.

The 7 poplar trees have been assessed as U condition (those in such a condition that they cannot realistically be retained as living trees.) Without the development it is likely that these TPO protected trees would continue to thrive contributing to greater diversity and doing their bit to slow down global warming. These trees could be pollarded as part of the development. If the development goes ahead the mitigation for the tree lost is insufficient.

Does the Tree Officer agree with assessment made at .4 .5 of The TREE SURVEY AND ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT?

That 'the line of Lombardy poplar trees were over mature and in a state of decline displaying both poor structural and physiological condition'?

The TREE SURVEY AND ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT Also States at point 3.3 of the survey

'...does not constitute a full arboriculture condition assessment involving the detailed inspection of the trees in relation to the structural condition decay and the other physical and pathogenic defects.'

I would suggest that if these trees are due to be removed because of their poor condition that they should be checked more thoroughly with more detailed survey of their condition.

Some tree assessed as A1 condition and to be retained are very likely to be lost in the near future eg T53 Ash is already showing sign of die back . This will lead to even greater loss of trees. Why is an Ash T53 which shows die back at the tips even classified as A1 condition?

It is proposed to plant 17 new trees. None have the potential to reach the mature proportions and longevity of the poplars, ash or monterey (many currently standing at 15-20 metres in height.) The developers should be asked to review the mix of trees to be planted and include more trees with the potential to grow large and have longevity such as Oak. There are some sites on the development that could allow for this type of tree. In addition planting 17 small trees to replace 12 mature trees is insufficient. The developers should be required to plant considerably more trees.

The requirement to improve biodiversity by 10% is not being met with the number and type of trees being planted .

In addition every tree except the Elm (5/6ft) will be planted as extremely small trees: 40-50 cm in height (see Landscape Master Plan). This means these trees will be about knee high. This looks like a cost cutting exercise. Trees of such a small size do not compensate for the loss of 12 mature trees. This is not sufficient. It will be years before these trees have any impact either visually or environmentally

The developers should be required to provide trees at least 1.75 -2m

SOFT LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE PLAN

It is not clear for how many years the management company must replace dead trees. Could it be ensured that that all trees are replaced for at least the first 5 years after development completion (longer if possible?)

Some trees such a T57 are close to housing and as such in future years are in danger of being cut down. T57 is being crown reduced to allow construction space for a house. A TPO on this tree could help safeguard its future. (Even more effective ask the developers to change plans for the housing to avoid trees being too near.) Any tree close to a house that does not have tree protection status is very likely to be lost in the first few years. In support of this The TREE SURVEY AND ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

At 4.21 states

‘The location and siting of new services near trees should consider the potential impact on and conflict with both tree roots and canopy. This should take into account the ultimate size of existing young and middle-aged trees at maturity. Conversely the impact of the tree on the activities should also be considered with regard to obstruction, shading, and leaf fall and root action. These are problems that can be managed provided sufficient space is allowed for them’

In order to mitigate for the loss of so many mature trees HBC need to safeguard the future of the remaining trees by giving the trees Protected status (TPO)