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Tree Report for Trees at 59 Restawhyle Avenue

The group of conifers; *Chamaecyparis lawsonia* (or cultivar of) are located at the junction of Kings Road and Restawhyle Avenue in Hayling Island PO11 0PG on the corner plot adjacent to 59 Restawhyle Avenue.

The group is made of up 10 No. semi-mature trees that are more or less evenly located around the edge of this corner space and adjacent to the footpath, and includes 1 stump.

The height of the trees are between 10-12m and they work together as a mature hedge with clear stem to about 2-2.5m. There is an even canopy of 6-7m that extends into the plot and over the footway and highway of Kings Road by up to approx. 6m extending over the highway itself.



The trees have TPO status, and are generally healthy. They do not appear to have been regularly maintained and are growing in a shape that is typical of the species, with a broadly conical crown and very dense foliage. As a species they reach approx. 36m in height at maturity if left unchecked and are a fast growing conifer.

The species does well on most soils and in a variety of locations and mostly used as hedging, although their use as hedging is only really appropriate in large parks or gardens, not traditional residential gardens. The species would make a dense screen and act as a

wind break in exposed areas or planted as ornamental specimens in an arboretum or park. The trees may have been planted on this corner plot to create a hedge screen to passing traffic and pedestrians.

The landscape character of Kings Road and Restawhyle Avenue is quite a dense residential area of Hayling Island made up of semi-detached dwellings, short terraces and 3-4 storey blocks of flats. Upon entering Kings Road from Church Road the pace of traffic reduces and the intimacy of the residential area is reinforced by structural hedge and tree planting to the junction and beyond.



Most of the dwellings have front gardens given over to driveways and car parking, or are gardens with well-maintained clipped hedges and garden trees. Amenity space includes landscaped corner greens and lawned frontages to the flats, with tree planting and there is a recreational green to the rear of these roads. The trees vary from larger species on the greens such as Birch, Pear and Ash and located within the larger setting of the flats, with smaller garden species of Cherry and Rowan Crab apple to the front gardens. The overriding landscape character is of a mature residential area of well-maintained gardens and amenity spaces where the landscape is in scale with the built form surrounding it.



The conifers that occupy the corner plot between Kings Road and Restawhyle Avenue are at odds with this established character of deciduous well maintained trees, creating a large scale, over dominant dark green tree screen that extend across the road and the footway. The trees offer little amenity to the established character being out of scale with their surroundings, and cast a dense shade to the corner plot itself.

The small scale branchlets, when shed cause a build up of dry matter over the soil of the corner plot and this extends into the street and along the footways building up along edges and kerbs and drains. The impact of the screen and overbearing nature of the shade cast impacts the existing street scene and comprises opportunities for the greening of the corner plot itself.

The proposal for development of the corner plot involves the construction of a pair of semi-detached houses; 1x3 bed, and 1x2 bed life time home for the applicant, and includes provision of access for 3 parking spaces, refuse/recycling storage, garden boundaries, landscaping and cycle storage facilities. The proposal includes landscaping and reinforcing the plot boundary to Kings Road and Restawhyle Avenue with appropriate hedge and tree planting that reflects the landscape character of the surrounding area. In order to progress the landscape scheme and create a useable amenity space to the rear gardens of the proposed dwellings, the existing evergreen tree screen will need to be completely removed.

It is proposed to remove the existing TPO trees and replant the edge of the corner plot with an evergreen hedge and reinforce the landscape character with suitable garden tree planting. The attached plans; 1014-5300 'Existing Site and Landscape Proposals' show the location of the hedge and the species selected; Escallonia 'Donard Seedling' which is a flowering evergreen hedge commonly used as residential hedging, especially in coastal areas. It can be maintained easily at a suitable height of 1.5m with a hedge trimmer and will create a dense and attractive screen that will reinforce the line of the corner plot and its relationship with the footway.

The proposed trees are Sorbus intermedia (Swedish Whitebeam) is a medium sized deciduous garden tree which is found in the wider location. The tree will underpin the landscape character and provide an attractive edge to the garden of the corner plot. At maturity the tree will reach 6m and the canopy extend to 4m. The trees are spaced around the boundary with open space between them ensuring there is not an overbearing impact on the gardens or the street scene in terms of shade. The tree blooms in the spring, followed by berries and good autumn colour. It is good for bio-diversity. The winter profile is attractive and the tree can easily be managed by selective pruning. It is proposed to plant these trees in a trench and use root barriers to protect the public footway and paths within the site.

The landscape proposals will provide a suitable replacement for the existing evergreen tree screen, that can be managed more easily and contribute and reinforce the established landscape character of the area.