
Site Address: St Thomas A Becketts Church, Church Lane, Havant, PO9 2TU
Proposal: Raise crown 1No. Lime (T4) on south side. Raise crown 8No. Yew (T5, T6, T13, T17, T20, T23, T24), 2No. Elderberry (T17-A, T20-A), 1No. Norway Maple (T25) and 1No. Apple (T10) by 1.5m, within Conservation Area of Warblington.
Application No: APP/15/01303 Expiry Date: 31/12/2015
Applicant: Mr A Skeet Team: Team 1
 Havant Borough Council
Agent: Case Officer: Jamie Gargett
Ward: St Faiths

Recommendation: **RAISE NO OBJECTION**

1 Site Description

St Thomas A Becketts Church, Church Lane, Havant, PO9 2TU

2 Planning History

None relevant

3 Proposal

Raise crown 1No. Lime (T4) on south side. Raise crown 8No. Yew (T5, T6, T13, T17, T20, T23, T24), 2No. Elderberry (T17-A, T20-A), 1No. Norway Maple (T25) and 1No. Apple (T10) by 1.5m, within Conservation Area of Warblington.

4 Policy Considerations

Havant Borough Local Plan (Core Strategy) March 2011
DM8 (Conservation, Protection and Enhancement of Existing Natural Features)

Listed Building Grade: Grade 1
Conservation Area: Warblington

5 Statutory and Non Statutory Consultations

Chichester Harbour Conservancy - no objection but request that works do not take place during bird nesting season
Conservation Officer - no comments received
Landscape Team - no objection

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: 5

Number of site notices: 1

Statutory advertisement: Not applicable.

Number of representations received: 0

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:

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.

The lime (T4) the subject of this application was mature and showing signs of good vigour and vitality with new buds growing on its tertiary branches. The works proposed to crown raise the foliage on the southern sector would be considered as necessary as to give clearance between the tree and lamppost near by as to ensure that it gives off light effectively so that it lowers the risk of trip hazards. There were previous pruning points evident on the tree where the tree had been crown lifted previously and occlusion of these points was evident.

The four Yews (T5, T6, T17, T20) in this application all appeared to show signs of normal vigour and vitality and had a lot of epicormic growth around their bases of which would be removed during the works. T17 was especially large and mature with old preservation techniques shown through the use of cement in the cavities in the trunk. There was also a Irish Yew (T13) which appeared to be showing signs of good vigour and vitality due with good extension of needle growth and presence of berries on the tree. The works proposed to raise the crown of these trees to 1.5M would be considered as minor as to manage and re-shape the trees as well as to give clearance to the memorial stones under their canopies as currently their contact with the tree is causing erosion. Well occluded previous pruning points were shown on these trees.

The Cherry Crab Apple (T10) appeared to be showing signs of good vigour and vitality with many crab apples and some leaves present on its crown. There was evidence of epicormic growth and its lower branches were beginning to lower themselves towards the ground and memorial stones surrounding the tree. The reduction of these branches through a crown lift to 1.5M will keep a clearance between the tree and the memorial stones as well as to reshape the canopy of the tree.

The two Elderberries also appeared to be showing signs of normal vigour and vitality. T20A has ivy and memorial stones at its base and T17A was growing between and against two memorial stones. Previous pruning points and some new budding was shown throughout the crown of both the trees. By crown raising these trees to 1.5M a clearance will be given between the memorial stones as well as to tidy up the bottom of their canopies.

The final tree the subject of this application was a mature Norway Maple showing signs of good vigour and vitality with a lot of new buds throughout its crown. By crown

raising this tree to 1.5M would be considered as very minor work as to reshape the bottom of its canopy. This tree had shed all of its leaves to preserve its energy for the winter months.

Overall, the works proposed in this application should be considered as general management of the trees as to eliminate their contact with the memorials around them as well as to give some a better shape to their crown. The proposed works should not detriment the health of the trees nor the public amenity value of the area. By stopping the contact between the trees and the memorials should lessen the impact of the erosion on the stones.

8 Conclusion

Recommend RNO

9 RECOMMENDATION:

That the Executive Head of Planning and Built Environment be authorised to **RAISE NO OBJECTION** for application APP/15/01303