
Site Address: 105 Havant Road, Emsworth
Proposal: Crown reduce by 4m, crown lift by 4m and deadwood 2No. Horse Chestnut trees (T1 and T2) subject to TPO 1652. Crown reduce height by 6m, and sides by 3m 1No. Lime tree (T2); pollard 1No. Lime tree (T1) to previous pruning points, both Limes subject to TPO 1575.
Application No: APP/14/01127
Applicant: Mr Burbardis
Agent: Mr Farrington
Ward: Emsworth

Expiry Date: 22/12/2014
Team: Team 2
Case Officer: Jamie Gargett

Tilia Tree Surgeons Ltd

Recommendation: **REFUSE TPO CONSENT**

1 Site Description

105 Havant Road, Emsworth, PO10 7LF
TPO trees - two in front garden and two in rear garden of a large residential dwelling, comprising a number of flats.

2 Planning History

None relevant

3 Proposal

Crown reduce by 4m, crown lift by 4m and deadwood 2No. Horse Chestnut trees (T1 and T2) subject to TPO 1652. Crown reduce height by 6m, and sides by 3m 1No. Lime tree (T2); pollard 1No. Lime tree (T1) to previous pruning points, both Limes subject to TPO 1575.

4 Policy Considerations

National Planning Policy Framework

Havant Borough Local Plan (Core Strategy) March 2011

DM8 Conservation, Protection and Enhancement of Existing Natural Features

Havant Borough Local Plan (Allocations) July 2014

Listed Building Grade: Not applicable.

Conservation Area: Not applicable.

5 Statutory and Non Statutory Consultations

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: 9

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:

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.

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 trees subject to this application are all mature trees that have in the past been heavily topped out but for over the intervening years have replaced their crowns and now show good vigour and vitality, and make a very significant impact on the landscape, being highly visible from the main Havant to Emsworth road.

Some of the larger and older wounds have been attacked by fungal pathogens, and cavities have been formed, although there is no indication that this has resulted in stem failures.

(i) Impact upon the street scene

The works applied for would be highly detrimental to the visual amenity offered by the trees in the local street scene as they would remove a significant proportion of the crown, leaving large open wounds with little or no living foliage around these wounds.

8 Conclusion

These trees have been heavily topped out in the past but to attempt to address this situation in one pruning operation is considered to be excessive and contrary to BS3998, leaving large open wounds exposed to fungal decay, and would be highly likely to be detrimental to the ongoing health and vitality of these trees. The most appropriate management strategy for these trees would be to undertake a lesser degree of reduction and re shaping in one pruning operation, and have pruning works planned over the coming years such that each operation is less invasive and stressful on the trees. In particular in the case of the Lime T1 (TPO 1575) it would be totally unacceptable to 're-pollard' this tree in one operation.

9 RECOMMENDATION:

That the Executive Head of Planning and Built Environment be authorised to recommend **REFUSAL** for application APP/14/01127

(A) **Recommend Refusal**

(B) for the following reason:

- 1 The works applied for are considered to be excessive when considering the management of these trees in this highly prominent location undermining their visual amenity value, and they would be detrimental to their ongoing health and vitality.