

Recommendation: **REFUSE TPO CONSENT**

Number of representations received: 0

7 Planning Considerations

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 this tree and whether this could also be harmful to its 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 tree subject of this application is a mature Monterey Pine offering high public amenity value to the local area and is considered to be a feature within the street scene.

The applicant has stated the following reasons to fell the tree:

- The tree is in an exposed position.
- Exudate on North East at 5m and suspect torsional crack.

It is agreed that the tree is located in an exposed position (as are many others in similar settings). However, no supporting evidence has been submitted to back up the reason behind the exudate on the main stem - there could be a number of reasons behind this, some that would not require the removal of the tree - and the applicant only 'suspects' a torsional crack.

Both HBC Arbs have looked at the tree and agree that for a TPO tree of this size and prominence more information is needed to prove that the tree requires felling.

The applicant has been emailed a number of times requesting that he undertake a basic inspection of the tree (the applicant is a qualified tree surgeon) but he has so far failed to do this and/or provide supporting information for his application to fell the tree. HBC Arb has waited until the final day of the statutory determination period before making this recommendation.

The applicant is fully aware that it is the owners responsibility to ensure that the tree is in a safe condition and not the Council's.

The applicant is also aware that he has the option to remove the tree under the DD exemption should he see fit and provide evidence that this was needed after the operation.

8 Conclusion

Recommend Refusal based on lack of information.

9 RECOMMENDATION:

That the Executive Head of Planning and Built Environment be authorised to **REFUSE TPO CONSENT** for application APP/14/01312, for the following reasons:

- 1 Despite a number of requests by the Council to the Applicant for supporting evidence to justify removal of the tree, none has been submitted. As such this refusal is based on insufficient information submitted with the application. The tree is a significant feature in the local landscape and its proposed felling would result in undue loss and detriment to the visual amenities of the locality. In the absence of the requested justification the proposed felling would be contrary to policy DM8 of the Havant Borough Local Plan (Core Strategy) 2011 and the National Planning Policy Framework 2012.