
Site Address:	15 Bladon Close, Havant, PO9 2QA		
Proposal:	Fell 1No. Beech tree (T5) subject to TPO 1279.		
Application No:	APP/13/011110	Expiry Date:	31/12/2013
Applicant:	Mrs S Calvert	Team:	Team 1
Agent:		Case Officer:	Jamie Gargett
Ward:	St Faiths		

Recommendation: **REFUSE TPO CONSENT**

1 Site Description

Rear garden to a residential dwelling.

2 Planning History

None

3 Proposal

Fell 1 No Beech Tree (T5) subject to TPO 1279.

4 Policy Considerations

National Planning Policy Framework

Core Strategies 2011 forming part of the HBLDF

DM8 (Conservation, Protection and Enhancement of Existing Natural Features)

Listed Building Grade: Not applicable.

Conservation Area: Not applicable.

5 Statutory and Non Statutory Consultations

None

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: 6

Number of site notices: 1

Statutory advertisement: Not applicable.

Number of representations received: 2

Summary: With reference to your letter regarding the felling of a Beech tree at 15 Bladen Close, this tree has caused damage to my fence post which is a concrete post set in concrete. The post has been moved by about 12 inches in the past few years. I will have to have this post replaced.

Comment: The removal and replacement of a fence post is a matter to be discussed between neighbours and does not form part of this application.

Summary: Having read the reasons put forward for the felling of this tree, I would like this application granted. The tree is unstable in high winds and if it did become uprooted it could potentially cause injury, maybe even fatal, property damage, crash into nearby trees depending on the angle of fall.

Comment: No justifiable reasons for the removal of this tree have been put forward to demonstrate that the tree is unstable during high winds.

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:

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 compact mature Beech demonstrating normal vigour and vitality. It is a single stem specimen and has a balanced crown. There is no evidence of fungal bodies around the base of the main stem and the owner has stated that she has not noted any.

This tree appears to be exhibiting expected movement during the recent high winds, however the owner has been strongly advised to have the tree inspected by a qualified arborist and to take advice regarding and recommended works. This action should be undertaken to all mature trees on an annual basis as they are living dynamic organisms that are subject to change.

In this instance the application to fell has not been backed up with any evidence to demonstrate that the tree is in an unsafe condition. However HBC Arb has explained to the owner that she has the right to evoke the DD exemption should she believe that her tree is unsafe, although this action must be justifiable or there is a potential for legal action to be taken.

HBC Arborsit provided the contact details for a local tree surgeon for the applicant to discuss the tree with. The applicant was happy with the situation and accepted that she had not provided any grounds for the tree to be removed other than she had seen the canopy and stem 'sway' during the recent high winds.

8 Conclusion

Recommend refusal.

9 RECOMMENDATION:

That the Executive Head of Planning and Built Environment be authorised to **REFUSE TPO CONSENT** for application APP/13/01110 for the following reasons

- 1 The tree is a significant feature in the local landscape and appears to be in adequately sound and healthy condition. Its proposed felling would result in undue loss and detriment to the visual amenities of the locality. It is therefore contrary to policy DM8 of the Havant Borough Local Plan (Core Strategy) 2011 and the National Planning Policy Framework 2012.

No technical information has been supplied with this application to support its removal.