

Referral Point : Simon Davis / Planning Officer – seeking advice on a planning application for the provision of additional parking spaces to a scheme which is almost completed out on site.

Reference : AW/139/14/DOC

Location : Land formerly the site of St Michaels & All Angels Church, Queens Fields, Aldwick

Site Visit: There is one tree of real significance on this site London Plane T11 and a lot of smaller ornamental tree species which collectively have a value as well.

The applicants have employed The Mayhew Consultancy who have prepared a good Arboricultural Impact Assessment Report covering the protection of these trees and I would be happy with this provided that their report is made the subject of a Planning Condition such that the developer is obliged to comply with its recommendations and furthermore employ Mr Mayhew to come out and supervise the installation and monitoring of the protective measures.

Overall, I have been disappointed with the enforcement of the arboricultural recommendations during the main build process and personally witnessed out on site the damage that has been done to these trees.

My latest site visit only confirms this – I saw evidence of compaction all around the new building and an excavator parked on the ground which The Mayhew report specifies should receive ground protection within the RPA of the London Plane T11.

Conclusions :

Whilst I am therefore happy with the level of Arb input in respect of reports submitted I am less than satisfied with the fact that no site supervision and monitoring has been Conditioned and thus the developers have already done the damage and this is simply ‘ticking a box’.



Consultant Arboriculturist