

CHECAA
Craigweil House and its Environs
Conservation Area Association
'Preserving our Regal, Historic and Architectural Heritage for Future Generations'

AW-212/15/T – Kingslea, 21 Kingsway, Craigweil – Lop No.1 Monkey Puzzle Tree.

Head of Planning Services
Arun District Council
Maltravers Road
Littlehampton
BN17 5LF

BY EMAIL ONLY

30th August 2015

Dear Sir

OBJECTION – AW/212/15/T – Lopping of a Monkey Puzzle Tree within the
Craigweil House Conservation Area and Area of Special Character

1. The Planning Applications Scrutiny Committee of CHECAA has studied this Application, concerning a specimen tree well known in the area and covered by the Tree Preservation Order Ref: TPO/AW/1/08, an order established during the previous Application to desecrate this tree in Planning Application AW/319/07/T. That Application was REFUSED, with the Case Officer supporting the advice given by his Arboricultural Officer to REFUSE.
2. This tree species, an Araucaria Araucana, from Chile originally, is rare and we believe this specimen is the only one now left in Aldwick. As far as we are aware it is in fine health and superb form.
3. The reasons given in the Application are 'pines (presumably that means 'needles') blocking drains and guttering.'
4. We consider this stated reason completely unnecessary and frivolous. All residents with greenery/trees in their neighbourhood have a responsibility to keep services such as these clear and unobstructed. Leaves and mosses from rooves naturally get into gutters etc and are an everyday occurrence to us all. That is no reason to 'Lop 10 branches back to the base' and thereby desecrate the very heart of this specimen tree.
5. In his report recommending Refusal in 2007, the Team Leader Mr.J.Smith said in his Conclusions "It is considered that the tree is visually prominent in the surrounding area. As such, the tree has a distinctive appearance and forms a significant contribution towards the character and appearance of the surrounding area.

6. It is considered that the proposed works (Lopping 4-6 branches) will alter the appearance of the tree in a way which will damage its visual amenity value. Further following consultation with the Council's Arboriculturalist it is considered that there is no arboricultural reason to carry out the proposed works."
7. And again in his Refusal Recommendation, Mr Smith said "The tree is a significant feature in the local landscape and appears to be in adequately sound and healthy condition. The tree surgery proposed in the application would result in excessive reduction of the tree's landscape impact and undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality, in conflict with the policies Dev1 of the West Sussex Structure Plan and GEN7 of the Arun District Local Plan." **At this time, these Plans are still in place I believe prior, to the emerging replacements.**
8. **So now we have the Applicant's applying for similar lopping of this special tree and we see no arboricultural reason for lopping anything other than dead wood. Previously the Applicant referred to a nuisance from pigeons and squirrels and had spoken to the Arboriculturist of "removing at least 6 branches". It would appear that approach by the Applicant still prevails.**
9. **We consider this Application completely unjustified for all the above reasons and ask that you Refuse it please.**

Yours faithfully

Ian Jefferies

Ian Jefferies
Deputy Chairman, CHECAA

Established 20 January 2001

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