

Recommendation Report for Works to Tree(s) on trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order (

REF NO: **AW/212/15/T**

LOCATION: Kingslea
 21 Kingsway
 Aldwick

PROPOSAL: Lop 10 No. branches back to the base & deadwood 1 No. Monkey Puzzle tree.

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

DESCRIPTION OF APPLICATION	As above.
SITE AREA	1217m ²
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT DENSITY	N/A
TOPOGRAPHY	Predominantly flat
TREES	Various, including the monkey puzzle tree forming part of this application.
BOUNDARY TREATMENT	Various trees and hedges.
SITE CHARACTERISTICS	Two storey detached house, set back from road, garden and driveway to front and garden to rear. The property is classified as a Building of Special Character.
CHARACTER OF LOCALITY	Suburban-residential area formed of detached two storey dwelling set back from the road. Conservation Area.

RELEVANT SITE HISTORY

AW/319/07/T	Lop one Monkey Puzzle tree	Refused 06-05-2008
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Previous application to remove branches form the tree in 2007 refused permission.

REPRESENTATIONS

Representations received:

Aldwick Parish Council
No objection.

Two letters of representation received objecting on the grounds of detrimental impact to the visual amenity of the area especially as the species is rare in Aldwick, no arboricultural reason for the works and that the works will damage the health of the tree.

Comments on Representations received:

Comments noted. The officer agrees with objections made.

CONSULTATIONS

Arboriculturist

Conservation Officer

Consultations responses received:

ARBORIST

Comments:

- The tree cited in this application is located in the rear garden of 21 Kingsway, Aldwick.
- The applicant has applied to 'Lop 10 No. branches back to the base' to No. 1 Monkey Puzzle tree.
- From the site inspection it is evident that T1 is planted in relatively close proximity to the onsite dwelling. It is also evident that the single lowest south spanning limb has extended to a position where future conflict with the dwelling is likely.
- Also from the site inspection, the branches cited for removal by the applicant are not directly affecting the onsite dwelling. More over the removal of said branches is likely to have a negative impact on the longevity and the aesthetical value offered by T1.
- The applicants request to remove dead material from T1 does not require consent from the Local Planning Authority.

Recommendation:

- I would object to the removal of the lowest ten branches of T1, as it is likely to have a negative impact to T1. I would however have no objections to the removal of the single south facing lateral branch only.
- The following conditions must be adhered to when completing the proposed pruning operation;

Conditions:

Crown Reduction

All side branches to be retained should be at least 1/3rd in diameter of the removed branch. Pruning cuts must be flat and smooth, kept as small as possible by cutting at an optimum angle and should not exceed 100mm in diameter.

REASON: In the interests of the trees continued health and vitality and to accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice.

Crown Clean

The Crown Clean should consist of deadwood and stub removal where all cuts should be made to the branch collar. Where crossing branches are encountered the weaker branch/branches should be reduced or removed to avoid contact between them. The remaining branch/branches should be shortened as appropriate to relieve 'end weight' and sudden exposure by reducing the leaf bearing branch tips by no more than 30%.

REASON: In the interests of the trees continued health and vitality and to accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice.

Comments on Consultation responses:

Comments noted

POLICY CONTEXT

Classifications:-

Tree Preservation Order
Conservation Area
Building of Special Character
Article 4 Direction

DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICIES

[Arun District Local Plan 2003:](#)

PLANNING POLICY GUIDANCE

POLICY COMMENTARY

The above policies are general and, other than online Planning Policy Guidance under references ID 36-090-20140306 and ID 36-091-20140306, are not specific to trees.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND/OR LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

Section 198 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 states:

"If it appears to a Local Planning authority that it is expedient in the interest of amenity to make provision for the preservation of trees.... they may for that purpose make an order"

The works to the trees are to be judged having regard to amenity

OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

It is considered that there are no other material considerations to warrant a decision otherwise than in accordance with the Development Plan and/or legislative background.

CONCLUSIONS

It is considered that the tree is visually prominent and is of a species which is not common 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.

Following consultation with the Council's Arborist it is considered that the proposed works will alter the appearance of the tree in a way which will damage its visual amenity value and health.

It is therefore recommended that this application be refused for the following reason.

RECOMMENDATION

REFUSE

- 1 The monkey puzzle tree trees provides a significant contribution to the character of the area and the proposed works, in the absence of sufficient arboricultural justification, would be detrimental to the health of the trees and the visual amenities of the locality.