

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

REF NO: AW/266/18/T

LOCATION: Trotyn Croft
Aldwick Fields
PO21 3TX

PROPOSAL: Fell 1No. Sycamore

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

DESCRIPTION OF APPLICATION	As above
TREES	The tree outlined in this application is located at the rear of the property.
SITE CHARACTERISTICS	Flats with surrounding gardens.
CHARACTER OF LOCALITY	Residential area.

RELEVANT SITE HISTORY

AW/207/18/T	Crown lift to a maximum of 2.5m above ground level & reduce crown by up to 1.5m to 1 No. Blue Cedar.	Approve 28-09-18
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History noted.

REPRESENTATIONS**REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED:**

Aldwick Parish Council:
No response received from Aldwick Parish Council.

No representations received from nearby occupiers.

COMMENTS ON REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED:

Comments noted.

CONSULTATIONS

Arboriculturist

CONSULTATION RESPONSES RECEIVED:

Tree Officer Comments:

- A tree visible from surrounding properties and an important constituent of a valuable tree group retained during development.
- Limited visibility from publicly accessible land but important for screening and contribution to local high canopy.
- Presents an attractive crown profile but on close inspection is clearly under stress from probable bark/cambium infection with associated high deadwood content and there is a notable structural defect in the main stem.

Conclusions:

- This tree has an attractive crown profile but is showing clear signs of physiological decline and structural defect. There is no remedial option that would prolong the life of this tree in a dignified state and be appropriate for its location.
- The work proposal has been justified on arboricultural grounds.

Recommendations:

- I recommend CONSENT for this application, subject to the following condition:

Condition To Be Applied to Approved Work: -

Once the tree has been felled (and either grubbed or ground out) then a replacement tree is to be planted in the same place or nearby and to within 4metres.

This is to be of Standard Nursery Stock proportions (10-12cm girth & 2m to 3m overall height) supported on a 'short stake' system with appropriate securing ties and pads.

It is to be planted within 12 months of the removal of the sycamore tree.

The species shall be selected from the following:-

Field maple *Acer campestre*
Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus*
Wild cherry *Prunus avium*
Pillar apple *Malus tschonoskii*

Reasons: To accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice in general.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

COMMENTS ON CONSULTATION RESPONSES:

Comments noted

DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICES

PLANNING POLICY GUIDANCE:

NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NPPG	National Planning Practice 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

Following comments from the Tree Officer, it is recommended consent be granted subject to the following conditions and informatives.

HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

The Council in making a decision should be aware of and take into account any implications that may arise from the Human Rights Act 1998. Under the Act, it is unlawful for a public authority such as Arun District Council to act in a manner, which is incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights.

Consideration has been specifically given to Article 8 (right to respect private and family life) and Article 1 of the First Protocol (protection of property). It is not considered that the recommendation for approval of the grant of permission in this case interferes unreasonably with any local residents' right to respect for their private and family life and home, except insofar as it is necessary to protect the rights and freedoms of others (in this case, the rights of the applicant). The Council is also permitted to control the use of property in accordance with the general interest and the recommendation for approval is considered to be a proportionate response to the submitted application based on the considerations set out in this report.

DUTY UNDER THE EQUALITIES ACT 2010

Duty under the Equalities Act 2010

In assessing this proposal the following impacts have been identified upon those people with the following protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation).

The proposal would have a neutral impact on the protected characteristics.

RECOMMENDATION

APPROVE CONDITIONALLY

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- 2 INFORMATIVE: The applicant should note that under Part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, with only a few exceptions, it is an offence for any person to intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild birds while the nest is in use or being built. Birds nest between March and September and therefore removal of dense bushes, ivy or trees or parts of trees etc. during this period could lead to an offence under the act.
- 3 INFORMATIVE: This notice does not give authority to destroy or damage a bat roost or disturb a bat. Bat species are protected under Section 39 of the 1994 Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations (as amended), the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended) and the 2000 Countryside and Rights of Way Act. It is illegal to damage or destroy any bat roost, whether occupied or not, or disturb or harm a bat. If you are aware that bats roost in a tree(s) for which work is planned, you should take further advice from Natural England (via the Bat Conservation Trust on 0845 1300228) or an ecological consultant before you start. If bats are discovered during the work, you must stop immediately and contact Natural England before continuing.