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AW-33-17-T – Pumping Station between 19 & 21 Kingsway – OBJECTION 3-3-2017

Head of Planning Services
Arun District Council
Maltravers Road
Littlehampton
BN5 7LF

3 March 2017

Dear Sir,

**OBJECTION to AW/33/17/T – Fell 3No. Poplar trees at Pumping Station between
19 & 21 Kingsway within the Craigweil House Conservation Area.**

This site, within the Craigweil House Conservation Area (CA) and Area of Special Character (ASC) and trees are protected by an Area Tree Preservation Order (BR/2/1958) and many other individual TPO's. Both English Heritage and Arun District Council have lauded our tree stock which was a significant consideration in according each designation for the whole Craigweil Private Estate was carved out of forest land and the creator required that trees be a central feature of the verges and open spaces. The CA Statement and Supplementary Planning Guidances stress the importance of trees here. It is clear from the application submitted that the water authority has been put under duress from a resident but we see no merit in it and ask that it be REFUSED.

The Water Company owns the trees and appears to be passing on the complaint of a resident who has repeatedly complained to them about them three Poplar trees casting a shadow. What an odd situation it is when an anonymous complainant does not put his/her 'head above the parapet' and openly lodge a complaint but expects trees to be felled upon some second hand spurious claim! Such conduct adds little weight, in my mind, to the genuineness of the complaint which seems pretty devious and shallow! The application must be judged upon its merits, of course, and I suggest that there is no merit whatever in this totally unacceptable request to fell three Poplars. Presumably, we will never know who is the complainant and we will never know which of the many gardens is claimed to 'suffer' from tree shadow! The site is not identified and cannot be visited or the complaint investigated or its merit assessed. **On that basis alone it must be Refused.**

How can the Planning Decision Maker agree that trees be felled because some anonymous person, in some unknown property, makes a complaint of suffering some 'harm', from three trees, which cannot be inspected or even substantiated?

As to fact, during the 40 years I have resided on the Craigweil Private Estate, the Water Company has had a Pumping Station to the north of 19 Kingsway and earlier owners used to complain of the sight until fencing was erected, despite having bought as seen!

At that time there was nothing but an open water ditch north of the pumping station, which remains today, running east/west from the 'Bluebell Wood' at Craigweil and then open scrubland further north to Fish Lane. A new housing estate was built in the 1980's by Gleeson's and there was much debate about responsibility for clearing the ditch and creating an acceptable boundary between the Craigweil Private Estate and the new estate.

At some stage trees, including the three Poplars complained of, were planted to serve as a screen and windbreak for the benefit of both estates and a green and pleasant backdrop from each side. They have developed into majestic, handsome trees of tremendous amenity value, as can be seen on the attached colour photograph taken from the road in Kingsway. Trees perform many and varied functions, planted for many and varied reasons. But, in the eyes of right thinking people, they represent nothing but beauty!

I say the view is a virtual Constable landscape and contend that had Constable painted this scene in the 1700/1800's he would have ADDED the tall Poplars to enhance the view, as they now do. Capability Brown, Charles Mynors writes in his treatise 'The Law of Trees, Forests and Hedgerows' '*...was always willing to add to what nature had provided by planting trees in locations chosen so as to maximize aesthetic appeal...improving attractive buildings and views, and helping to hide unattractive ones*'. The trees are protected by TPO's as on the application form.

The fact is, of course, that they are also in a line running east/west and, equally, it is fact that the sun rises in the east and sets in the west. So any shadow cast will, broadly, be to the east and west and be at the bottom of a garden – whichever anonymous one it is! Not a major hardship there, one would think but a Blessing having such lovely trees – free!

There is no claim that the trees are dead, dying or dangerous and it is stated that they are not diseased, so there can be no acceptable horticultural or arboricultural cause to fell them. I ask that the Consultant Arboriculturalist to Arun District Council be asked to inspect these trees and report. **Each tree was individually TPO'd in 2010 and I ask that they not be felled.** All the surrounding householders bought as they saw the area, including the trees, and they are a bonus. Should the Consultant consider minor surgery appropriate in the interests of good husbandry then I am sure that the Water Company would be prepared to carry out whatever works he recommends, but that is not the request! After all, they were doing it before any of these residents came to live here. **Please REFUSE this application.**

Yours faithfully

Richard D. Ostler

Attached – Colour photograph looking north from Kingsway.



