

Case Officer: Hannah Kersley
Reference: AW/55/22/T
Location: 48 Fish Lane, Aldwick, PO21 3AH
Proposal: Fell 25no. Leyland cypress trees
Reason given: Increasing vulnerability to storm damage, safety concern

Comments on Application:

18 x Leyland cypress / *X Cupressocyparis leylandii*

Group height: 10-15m Group length: 28m Age class: Early mature

- TPO/AW/106/10 (G-1971) applies to eighteen trees in this linear group of same species, although there are approximately twenty-seven individual stems in total. From the map associated with the Order, those first eighteen trees or so due west from the east boundary are the most likely subjects. It is possible that the intention was to protect those trees of larger stem diameter although that is not stated within the TPO documents.
- A reasonable and logical position to take is that all trees are protected due west from the east boundary until the first obvious gap (see embedded photo at foot of this report). That closely resembles the group extent as illustrated on the TPO plan. Those trees west of the gap have less average height and stem diameter than the majority east of same.
- The planning authority need only concern itself with those trees east of the gap. Consent should not be required for any proposal affecting nor any condition exist to ensure replacements for, those trees west of the gap.
- The group is visually impressive on the street scene, being a tall and long evergreen feature. Individual trees are typically in a fine physiological state but with numerous structural anomalies and defects revealed at close inspection.

Conclusions:

- There remains some useful life expectancy in these trees although their near-future decline is foreseeable. Ongoing management obligations to keep them in a safe condition could then be regarded as an unreasonable burden given their low amenity value.
- The work proposed can be justified on arboricultural grounds. The loss of so much crown volume and aesthetic appeal from the street scene can be mitigated with an ambitious replacement tree planting scheme.

Recommendation

- I recommend **CONSENT** is granted subject to the following condition:

Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -

Condition 1

Once the trees have been felled (and either grubbed or ground out) then five replacement trees are to be planted in the same place (or nearby and to within three metres) to form a new linear scheme at three metre spacing.

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

They are to be planted within twelve months of the removal of the Cypress trees.

The species shall be selected from the following: -

Field maple *Acer campestre*

Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus*

Downy or silver birch *Betula pubescens / pendula*

Western red cedar *Thuja plicata*

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



Fig.1. TPO/AW/106/10 (G1971) – 48 Fish Lane, Aldwick

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Greenspace