

Consultation response from Tree Officer

From: Anita Gardner
Sent: 21 June 2017 14:52
To: Planning.Responses
Subject: FW: Sea Road Toilets - Tree Survey - EP/42/17/PL

Please can the attachment be scanned as a consultee response?

Anita Gardner | Principal Planner, Planning Department, Arun District Council | Location: First Floor, Arun Civic Centre, Maltravers Road, Littlehampton, BN17 5LF

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From: Anita Gardner
Sent: 20 June 2017 11:24

Subject: FW: Sea Road Toilets - Tree Survey - EP/42/17/PL

Hi Lauren,

The extension of time on this application expires tomorrow and I have not yet received amended plans. Please can you let me know if revised plans are being prepared and if so when they are likely to be received so that we can agree an EOT accordingly

Regards

Anita

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From: Anita Gardner
Sent: 07 June 2017 18:23

Subject: FW: Sea Road Toilets - Tree Survey - EP/42/17/PL

Hi Lauren,

Please find attached comments from our tree officer. I have discussed them with Juan. As planners we agree that the fig can be removed. Without prejudice, I would appreciate receipt of a revised proposed layout plan deleting reference to provision of 2 bay trees and indicating a semi-mature replacement tree of a species to be agreed. This will then be controlled by condition.

Regards
Anita

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From: Richard Martin
Sent: 06 June 2017 16:31
To: Anita Gardner
Subject: RE: Sea Road Toilets - Tree Survey - EP/42/17/PL

Hi Anita

Sorry for the delay, the attached arrived this morning.

Regards
Richard

Richard Martin | Tree & Landscape Officer, Greenspace, Arun District Council | Location: Bognor Regis Town Hall, Clarence Road, Bognor Regis, West Sussex, PO21 1LD

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Planning Officer: Anita Gardner

Planning Application Ref: EP/42/17/PL

Location: Public Conveniences, Sea Road, East Preston

Description of works: Alterations to existing public conveniences including provision for disabled facilities and ramped access to toilet.

Comments On Application:

- The applicants have had two arboricultural assessments of this tree – one by **ArbTec Tree Care** as part of their annual Tree Inspection works for East Preston Parish Council and another by **The Urban Surgeons** specifically looking at the tree safety. Both recommend the removal of this tree.

Fig Tree *Ficus carica* Height – 8m Avge Sprd – 4m Age – Mature

- This tree has a previous history of heavy topping and lopping works.
- It leans southwest and there is a small cavity opening at 1m above ground on the north side – when probed this went through to two thirds of the trunk diameter but had no expansion or width to it.
- There are small adpressed fungal brackets attached to the trunk at ground level on the north side.
- The crown supports a full head of branchwork with the foliage appearing of good lustre and colour and healthy.
- The trunk is hard up against the low boundary wall but there are no signs of cracking or damage.
- This is a highly visible and significant tree in the landscape – but in view of the noted issues I would not recommend a TPO be made.

Conclusions:

- I would not see felling as the only option here – a pruning option to manage the decay and defects and lean has been adequate up to now as a management strategy and I would like to see this continue as the tree has a life expectancy in excess of 20 years in my opinion.
- Felling because of the new ramp is not necessary because with the involvement of an Arb Expert they could have supervised 'Hand Digging' below the existing hard surfacing and severance of any roots found that are 25mm or less in diameter – at 4m distance from the centre of the trunk I would not expect there to be many roots over this diameter- if any.

Recommendations:

- I would recommend that this tree is retained and managed with pruning works.
- However, if planners see fit to approve the removal as part of the redevelopment works then I would like to see one quality semi-mature replacement tree planted in its place - of a species to be agreed.
- The applicants show two new Bay Laurel trees being planted which in my opinion would not be suitable and would not adequately mitigate the loss of amenity value provided by the Fig.

Bernie Harverson

Consultant Arboriculturist

