

ADC PARKS & GREENSPACE ARBORICULTURE

FROM: Dafydd Lloyd

TO: Janice Chapman

PLANNING APPLICATION: FP/168/14/T

ADDRESS: The Southdown 133 Felpham Way Bognor Regis PO22 8QI

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: Fell to near ground level 2 No failed Conifer stumps, fell 1 No Conifer hedge to near ground level, crown lift to 4m above ground level 4 No Hawthorn trees and remove stumps of 2 No Conifers including surface roots.

INSPECTION DATE: 23/10/2014

RECOMMENDATION:

Objection ☐

No Objection ☒

Split Decision ☐

Comment ☒

Recommendation ☒

Suggested Conditions ☐

Tree Replacement ☐

Dead/Dangerous ☐

CA & Amenity Value ☐

Species: 7 x Leylandii x *Cuprocyparis leylandii* **Height:** 3.5 meters **Average Crown Spread:** 2 meters **Crown Condition:** poor **Form:** poor **Age Class:** semi mature

Species: 4 x Hawthorn *Crataegus spp* **Height (average):** 6 meters **Average Crown Spread (average):** 2 meters **Crown Condition (average):** poor **Form (average):** poor **Age Class (average):** early mature

Comments:

- The outlined trees are all situated along the rear boundary of the Southdown pub. The wider landscape has a few medium/large (mainly broadleaf species) tree stock.
- The conifer hedge is made up of 7 clear individuals (the true number of individuals may differ slightly, as the growth habit has made it difficult to distinguish between a few of the trees). This hedge line has clearly had some historical management to keep the hedge form, however it appears this has not been adhered to at some point as the lateral extension growth and large gaps appearing between the lateral branches would indicate that this hedge line did begin to revert back a tree form at some point.
- The result of this lack of management is that the aesthetic value has been greatly diminished and the function of this hedge as a 'screen' for the boundary line is now questionable. Further training via pruning would improve the current form of this tree line somewhat; however the chance to revert this line to a functional hedge line has been missed.

- The application has also requested a 4 meter crown raise of a line of early mature Hawthorn trees spanning in a linear line along the northern boundary. These trees southern edge are also abutting the Public house car park. The proposed crown raise will be limited to this southern side and is clearly designed to allow full vehicular access to the car park below. From the site inspection it is clear that there has been previous crown lifts on the outlined hawthorns alleviate the problem of contact between vehicles and branches. This operation is likely to change the appearance of the outlined hawthorns; however it is unlikely to have a significant impact on the vitality/retention span of these trees. Also the aesthetic value is unlikely to be altered by such an activity.
- As for the failed conifer stumps, as they are confirmed to be dead they can felled without consent from the Local Authority. As these stems had no active TPO, there will not be a requirement to replant a tree in the same location.

Recommendation:

- As the outlined conifer hedge line has poor arboricultural merit, low retention span, and it is unlikely that any form of management would restore the habit to a hedge form; **I would have no objection to the felling of this hedge line.**
- As for the crown lift of the Hawthorn line, this is remedial operation that will ensure no damage is caused to the hawthorn trees from interference with vehicles using the parking area. **I would therefore have no objection to the 4 meter crown raise** of the southern side of the outlined hawthorn trees.
- **I would also have no objection to the felling of the 2x dead conifer stems**, as this would have no detrimental effect on the surrounding landscape and/or the aesthetic value.

Conditions:

Crown Lift

Branches found within the clearance height having diameters greater than **100mm** should be shortened and no more than 15% of the leaf bearing growth of that branch should be removed to facilitate the unobstructed free passage of vehicles and pedestrians.

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

Dafydd Lloyd
Arun District Council
Tree Officer