

From: Maria Tomalova <Maria.Tomalova@arun.gov.uk>
Sent: 21 October 2020 10:59
To: Planning.Responses <Planning.Responses@arun.gov.uk>
Subject: FP/179/20/PL, 7 Ambleside close, Felpham

Please upload the below to the above application: further information.

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From: Edward Baker [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 October 2020 10:51
To: Maria Tomalova <Maria.Tomalova@arun.gov.uk>
Subject: 7 Ambleside close, Felpham

Dear Maria,

As a way of introduction I am the son in law of Carolyn Bottomley (the applicant for FP/179/20/PL). I have worked for the National Trust as a countryside ranger and in local government as a site manager in a parks and countryside team. Currently managing a private estate grounds, I regularly organise tree work and manage gardens hands on. Apologies to give you my resume but I hope this background information helps to understand our approach to vegetation at 7 Ambleside Close.

From Google maps it would appear the garden at 7 Ambleside Close has significant screening from trees/shrubs. A yew tree (*Taxus baccata*) on the south boundary closest to the house was removed many years ago (which will be apparent on a site visit due to the vegetation that grows here) because of its close proximity to the house and to reduce potential future costs of pruning to keep it to a formative size.

The eastern boundary has undergone shrub maintenance recently - For a few years now we have talked about clearing back this boundary to improve light, remove overhanging branches in neighbours gardens and take back more garden to formalise and tidy. When Carolyn first moved into the property 20+ years ago there was little screening here from/for neighbours. It has gradually over time become unmanageable for her to keep on top of.

The clearance work was carried out in September outside of bird nesting season. Predominantly non native overgrown, poor specimen shrubs were cut back/coppiced, the most significant being - *Prunus laurocerasus* *Rotundifolia*. Native species that were coppiced included *Sambus nigra* and *Ilex aquafolium*. The only tree that was felled that I am aware of on the eastern boundary is a Yew which was of a similar size to the historical one close to the house. This tree was sadly structurally weak (this only became apparent having cut back the surrounding overgrown shrubs) with included bark/tight forks - before we have strong winds we felt it was important to remove this to reduce liability damage to 3rd party property from the tree potentially failing. Although poor specimens we have retained some shrubs and trees for screening currently.

Regardless of the outcome of the planning application that has been submitted we have always planned to clear the eastern boundary.

The intention is to replant with pleached yew hedging - creating a floating evergreen hedge above and along the fence line providing screening for all and reducing garden maintenance and increasing size of garden.

In hindsight this could have been communicated better to the neighbours and we understand that this is a sensitive issue, however I hope that above provides some context to the works that have been undertaken.

We would be delighted to meet you for a socially distanced site visit if you feel this would be beneficial?

Kind regards

Edward Baker