

Planning Officer: Miss K Welch

Planning Application Ref: LU/293/21/T

Location: Rosemead Park, Littlehampton

Description of works: Fell 1no. Himalayan *Cotoneaster* tree (T42). Fell and grind group of *Leylandii* cypress trees (approx. 45 trees) (T5)

Reasons given: Health and safety

Comments on Application:

T5 37x Leyland cypress / *Cupressus x leylandii* Height: 15-20m, Spread: 0-5m, Age class: Mature
TPO ref. /LU/1/95 (G2)

T42 Unknown species Height: 5-10m, Spread: 0-5m, Age class: Unknown
TPO ref. /LU/1/93 (G3)

- T5 is a single row linear tight group (approx. 75m length), representing a substantial landscape feature in public open space.
- The group has endured at this exposed location by virtue of root and crown cohesion, although it is evident (and supported anecdotally) their defence against strong wind has weakened in recent years. There are numerous broken branches and developing structural defects which suggest the group is fast reaching the end of its safe, useful life expectancy.
- The applicant has employed Apples & Pears Trees and Landscaping Ltd. as agent, who have submitted a report which includes a replacement planting plan in principle, which is encouraging. A scheme of that type (relying heavily on use of native tree type) and combining hedge/copse planting with individual specimen trees, would be suitable and gain my support.
- T42 - The removal of dead trees subject of a TPO is an exception and does not require approval from the local planning authority, although they do require a minimum of 5 working days notice prior to that work being carried out (notice duly received). There exists a duty to replace T42, which can be further secured by condition.

Conclusions:

- The work proposed is justified on arboricultural grounds.
- T5 - The removal of such a large landscape feature is going to be keenly felt by local residents and regular visitors, so an ambitious replacement planting programme will be necessary. This can be secured by way of condition.
- T42 – We have received the required amount of notice, so the applicant can proceed with removal of this tree without further recourse to the local planning authority.

Recommendation:

- I recommend **CONSENT** for this application, subject to the following condition:

Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -

Part a) T5 - Once the trees have been felled, replacement planting is to be carried out within 12 months of their removal. The planting scheme must include a minimum of 16 trees to be planted equidistant of one another in single or double row and to within 10 metres of the existing tree line.

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

The species shall be selected from the following: -

Field maple *Acer campestre*

Small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata*

Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus*

Wild cherry *Prunus avium*

Pedunculate oak *Quercus robur*

Sweet chestnut *Castanea sativa*

Crab apple *Malus sylvestris*

Holm oak *Quercus ilex*

Part b) T42 - Once the tree has been felled (and either grubbed or ground out) then a replacement tree is to be planted in the same place or nearby and to within 4metres.

This is to be of 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.

It is to be planted within 12 months of the removal of the tree shown as T42.

The species shall be selected from the above list.

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

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team