

Recommendation Report for Works to Tree(s) on trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO)

REF NO: P/110/21/T

LOCATION: 43 Sea Lane
Pagham
PO21 4UW

PROPOSAL: Reduction/crown lift of 1 No. Sycamore (T1) to Northern face to achieve 2m clearance from building.

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

DESCRIPTION OF APPLICATION	As above.
TREES	The tree outlined in this application is located at 43 Sea Lane.
SITE CHARACTERISTICS	Dwelling.
CHARACTER OF LOCALITY	Residential.

RELEVANT SITE HISTORY

P/78/21/T	Various works to 1 No. Sycamore tree	Refused 09-07-21
P/119/14/T	Lateral prune of lowest 5-6 branches to facilitate a crown lift of 6m above ground level, crown thin by 20%, remove deadwood & remove diseased branches to 1 No Sycamore tree	ApproveConditionally 15-01-15

Relevant planning history noted.

REPRESENTATIONS

No objection from Parish Council.
No representations from nearby occupier.

COMMENTS ON REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED:

Noted.

CONSULTATIONS**CONSULTATION RESPONSES RECEIVED:**

I have considered this application by means of a desktop review. Previous consideration from site provides further insight to the proposal.

It has received extensive crown lift (low branch reduction/removal) pruning in the past. It exhibits a relatively unmodified and attractive upper crown profile, despite its exposure to coastal winds. It grows at the front of the property and is visible from surrounding properties and to users of the public highway (footway and carriageway). As such, it has public amenity value.

The above description of works states the principle aims of the proposal. Specifically, the applicant intends to undertake the following operations (as described in their Statement), for which Approval is sought:

Reduce/remove epicormic growth to achieve a maximum of 3metres overhead clearance on all aspects.

Reduce lateral spread (East aspect of crown only) by no more than 2metres, leaving approximately 5m minimum.

Prune small branches (<50mm diameter) to remove direct interference (contact) with overhead cables (BT) routed through the crown.

Reduce upper North-tending branch back, to achieve maximum 2metres clearance from building.

Conclusions:

The work proposed is justified on arboricultural grounds, although not for the reasons given. On completion, the tree ought to be in greater harmony with its surroundings.

If undertaken to a high standard and at the right time; then it is unlikely to have an adverse effect on the tree's long-term vitality and visual amenity.

Recommendation:

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

Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -

Where whole branches are to be removed and final cuts made close to the trunk or branch union they are to be made as shown in Figure 2 of BS3998:2010

Where branches are to be shortened back the final cuts are to be made at the correct angle shown in BS3998:2010 and adjacent to a live bud or lateral.

Reasons: In the interests of the tree's continued health and vitality and to accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice.

See also the standard pruning guidance notes issued with the consent letter

COMMENTS ON CONSULTATION RESPONSES:

Comments noted.

POLICY CONTEXT

Built up area boundary.

Tree preservation order.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICIES

PLANNING POLICY GUIDANCE:

NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NPPG	National Planning Practice Guidance

POLICY COMMENTARY

The above policies are general and, other than online Planning Policy Guidance under references ID 36-090-20140306 and ID 36-091-20140306, are not specific to trees.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND/OR LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

Section 198 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 states:

"If it appears to a Local Planning authority that it is expedient in the interest of amenity to make provision for the preservation of trees.... they may for that purpose make an order"

The works to the trees are to be judged having regard to amenity

OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

It is considered that there are no other material considerations to be weighed in the balance with the Development Plan.

CONCLUSIONS

Following the comments from the tree officer, it is recommended consent be approved (granted), subject to the following conditions and informatives.

HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

The Council in making a decision should be aware of and take into account any implications that may arise from the Human Rights Act 1998. Under the Act, it is unlawful for a public authority such as Arun District Council to act in a manner, which is incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights.

Consideration has been specifically given to Article 8 (right to respect private and family life) and Article 1 of the First Protocol (protection of property). It is not considered that the recommendation for approval of the grant of permission in this case interferes unreasonably with any local residents' right to respect for their private and family life and home, except insofar as it is necessary to protect the rights and freedoms of others (in this case, the rights of the applicant). The Council is also permitted to control the use of property in accordance with the general interest and the recommendation for approval is considered to be a proportionate response to the submitted application based on the considerations set out in this report.

DUTY UNDER THE EQUALITIES ACT 2010

Duty under the Equalities Act 2010

In assessing this proposal the following impacts have been identified upon those people with the following protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation).

The proposal would have a neutral impact on the protected characteristics.

RECOMMENDATION

APPROVE CONDITIONALLY

- 1 Where whole branches are to be removed and final cuts made close to the trunk or branch union they are to be made as shown in Figure 2 of BS3998:2010
Where branches are to be shortened back the final cuts are to be made at the correct angle shown in BS3998:2010 and adjacent to a live bud or lateral.

Reasons: In the interests of the tree's continued health and vitality and to accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice.

See also the standard pruning guidance notes issued with the consent letter

- 2 INFORMATIVE: The applicant should note that under Part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, with only a few exceptions, it is an offence for any person to intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild birds while the nest is in use or being built. Birds nest between March and September and therefore removal of dense bushes, ivy or trees or parts of trees etc. during this period could lead to an offence under the act.
- 3 INFORMATIVE: This notice does not give authority to destroy or damage a bat roost or disturb a bat. Bat species are protected under Section 39 of the 1994 Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations (as amended), the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended) and the 2000 Countryside and Rights of Way Act. It is illegal to damage or destroy any bat roost, whether occupied or not, or disturb or harm a bat. If you are aware that bats roost in a tree(s) for which work is planned, you should take further advice from Natural England (via the Bat Conservation Trust on 0345 1300228) or an ecological consultant before you start. If bats are discovered during the work, you must stop immediately and contact Natural England before continuing.