

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

REF NO: R/281/18/T

LOCATION: 9 Preston Avenue
Rustington
BN16 2DE

PROPOSAL: Crown lift of 1.5m to 1 No. Stone Pine tree and 5 No. Leylandii tree.

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

DESCRIPTION OF APPLICATION	As above.
TREES	The tree outlined in this application is at 9 Preston Avenue, Rustington.
SITE CHARACTERISTICS	Dwelling.
CHARACTER OF LOCALITY	Residential.
No relevant planning history.	

REPRESENTATIONS

REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED:

Rustington Parish Council
Parish Council - No objection.
No representations received from nearby occupiers.

COMMENTS ON REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED:

Noted.

CONSULTATIONS

Arboriculturist

CONSULTATION RESPONSES RECEIVED:

Tree Officer -
Scots pine / Pinus sylvestris - Height: Approx.8m - Average spread:3m - Age class: Early mature

- The pine tree (T1) appears to be outwardly healthy and stable with a relatively unmodified and attractive crown profile.
- It appears to be in a fine physiological and structural state. It grows at the rear of the property and can be seen from neighbouring dwellings but has only limited visibility from publicly accessible land.
- The applicant suggests a temporary restraint of selected branches while roof work is underway; a far more acceptable response than wholesale branch pruning/removal to facilitate the same. The tree has visually interesting form but a relatively low ratio of foliage bearing limbs/branches to overall mass, so

branch removal should be kept to an absolute minimum to avoid detriment to its ongoing health and vitality.

- The group of Leyland cypress (T2-T6) are not the subject of an Order and do not require consent from the local planning authority for the work now proposed.

Conclusions:

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

- The work proposed is justified on arboricultural grounds as it seeks to preserve the integrity of built structure with respect for natural tree form.

- There should be no significant loss of public amenity on completion of the proposed works.

Recommendations:

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

Conditions 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 trees continued health and vitality and to accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice.

COMMENTS ON CONSULTATION RESPONSES:

Comments noted and will be addressed by a condition.

POLICY CONTEXT

Within Built Up Area

Tree Preservation Order

DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICES

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 warrant a decision otherwise than in accordance with the Development Plan and/or legislative background.

CONCLUSIONS

It is recommended that consent be 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

In assessing this proposal neutral 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).

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 trees continued health and vitality and to accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice.

- See also the standard pruning guidance notes.

- 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 0845 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.