

ANNEXE

7. Identification of trees and description of works

Our objective is to remove an old hedge that is deteriorating fast and replace it with planting that will better fit the rest of the conservation area and thereby improve it.

The trees are ~~14~~ the Lawson's cypresses referred to as "G I" in the TPO 105 of 24/1/1974, one of which was cut down seemingly many years ago, so 13 trees.

Originally they were treated as separate trees and we believe they were probably trimmed for the first time when our house was built in 2010 or 2011. They had grown extremely tall and on buying the house at the end of 2011 we filed Y/6/12/T and were given permission to reduce the height by six metres and trim the bulges made by the trees to a more hedge-like shape. We estimate the trees are now some 6.5 – 7 metres high.

The trees are very wide – as much as 7 metres – having spread about 1.0m since 2012, despite careful annual pruning. The trees are widely splayed and in one place a major branch has had to be tied with rope to avoid collapse. The trees have no foliage in the middle, greenery being confined to the exterior. There are many gaps in the foliage. Number 9 The Poplars can be seen through some of these.

In view of the trees' previous neglect, their age, and the removal of 6m from the top in 2012 the trees cannot be brought into a good condition and will merely continue to deteriorate.

Our wish is to remove all the Lawsons cypresses and to replace them with new planting that will be very much more in keeping with the character of the rest of the Conservation Area in which our house and garden are located – thereby enhancing the Conservation Area.

Thus it is our wish to plant an evergreen Prunus (laurel) hedge towards the back of the land in question. This will be maintained at around 3-4m height, and will be in keeping with prunus hedges in other parts of our garden. In front of these we would plant perhaps decorative deciduous trees such as almonds or cherries, which will reflect the style of planting on the opposite side of the garden- see annexe 3. And at the front, we would plant smaller shrubs. Finally towards the eastern end of the hedge we would plant one or possibly two green-gold Castle Wellan cypresses or a blue-grey Arizona cypress to provide something of a screen to number 10 The Poplars, and a similar arrangement to screen number 9 The Poplars, neither of which has a direct view towards our house. It will be easier to define the exact planting places for the trees when the existing hedge has been removed.

There is sufficient room for this planting as the plot is 6.5m wide at the eastern end, tapering gradually to about 4.7m at the western end.

The owners of numbers 9 and 10 The Poplars have said they would be delighted to have the existing hedge removed, which they regard as ugly and oppressive.

8. Trees – additional information

I attach the following:

1. Land Registry plan, not to scale, showing the hedge in its context. Note that from Church Road the hedge is at a considerable distance and is mainly visible only end-on.
2. Photo of the hedge taken from the north, inside our garden. In winter this shades the whole of the garden to the north.
3. Photo taken from inside our garden, showing the style of planting on our north boundary and the adjoining garden of Church House in the heart of the conservation area.
4. A photograph of the hedge taken from The Poplars, showing the existing planting both evergreen and deciduous within The Poplars to provide immediate screening. Even if the screening did not exist, the view would merely be of our garden above the fence.
5. This gives some idea of the state of the centre of the hedge.
6. Ditto
7. And 8. These are examples of holes in the hedge.