

P/14/1211/TO

MISS KIMBERLEY HARDWICK

FAREHAM NORTH-WEST

AGENT: MISS KIMBERLEY
HARDWICK

(A) FELL 11 OAK TREES TO GROUND LEVEL AND CROWN RAISE 3 OAK TREES TO 5 METRES ABOVE GROUND LEVEL BY REMOVING SMALL DIAMETER BRANCHES < 75MM;

(B) TRIM AND REDUCE ALL TREES BY UP TO 20%. THE TREES ARE PROTECTED BY TPO 652.

7, 8 & 9 THE GLADE FAREHAM HAMPSHIRE PO15 6EQ

Report By

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Site Description

This application relates to trees situated within a private copse to the rear of properties in The Glade. The copse was included within the residential gardens of a number of properties some years ago.

Description of Proposal

Consent is sought to undertake the following works to trees protected by TPO 652:

(A) Fell 11 oak trees to ground level and crown raise 3 oaks to 5 metres above ground level by removing small diameter branches <75mm.

(B) Trim and reduce all trees by up to 20%.

Policies

The following policies apply to this application:

Approved Fareham Borough Core Strategy

CS4 - Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity and Geological Conservation

Fareham Borough Local Plan Review

DG4 - Site Characteristics

Representations

One letter of objection has been received objecting to the works on the following grounds:

1) The oaks should not be removed if there is no evidence of disease or threat to life and property.

2) The trees were on site when the applicant purchased the property.

Planning Considerations - Key Issues

PART (A) The proposed removal of the 11 trees effectively comprises of the thinning of the stand of trees by removing weak, suppressed and poor quality specimens that do not contribute to the overall visual cohesion of the group of trees.

Officers consider that this part of the application is acceptable and complies with the Fareham Borough Council Local Plan Review and Fareham Borough Council Core Strategy.

PART (B) Reducing multiple oak trees by an unquantified 20% is likely to result in the loss of a significant proportion of the foliage bearing branches, create multiple pruning wounds and impair the trees' natural form and appearance. No reason has been provided for these significant tree works, which cannot be supported on arboricultural grounds. The proposed pruning is likely to have an adverse impact on the health and vitality of the trees affected.

The removal of sapwood from a tree removes stored energy in the wood that is then lost to the tree system. A tree's response to wounding or pruning requires the expenditure of energy to initiate repair (wound wood) that prevents water loss and drying out of tissues, which are pre disposed to colonisation by various organisms (certain bacteria and fungi). Loss of young bark, twigs and leaves also removes the energy production parts of the tree by reducing photosynthetic capacity.

The replacement of such tissues with new growth requires energy expenditure, which is drawn from the trees stored reserves in the sapwood and roots. All this extra expenditure of energy can put stress on the tree system (which is recoverable) that can lead to strain (which is permanent damage). Trees suffering stress have weaker natural defences, which can predispose them to colonisation by decay fungi or insect infestation, which can increase the potential for the development of disease and decay.

The proposed tree works in this section of the application are considered to be contrary to Policy DG4 of the Fareham Borough Local Plan Review and Policy CS4 of the Fareham Borough Council Core Strategy in that they would represent poor arboricultural practice for which there is insufficient justification. Furthermore the suggested tree works would be detrimental to the visual amenities and to the character of the area.

Recommendation

CONSENT: Works to be undertaken within 2 years and work to accord with BS3998 (2010):

(A) Fell 11 oak trees to ground level and crown raise 3 oaks to 5 metres above ground level by removing small diameter branches < 75mm.

REFUSE: Insufficient arboricultural evidence, harmful to visual amenities and character of the area:

(B) Trim and reduce all trees by up to 20%.

Notes for Information

Notice of work commencement; Right to carry out work over property other than applicant's own; Terms as BS3998 and work in accordance with recent arboricultural research; Care to wildlife and bat protection.

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL



7, 8 & 9 The Glade
Scale 1:1250

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