

P/13/0332/TO

TITCHFIELD COMMON

MR MIKE HENNING

AGENT: MR JOSEPH TITCOMBE

ONE OAK TREE COVERED BY TPO501: (A) SHORTEN LATERAL BRANCHES TO NORTHEAST OF CROWN TO PROVIDE 3 METRES CLEARANCE FROM DWELLING AND REMOVE SMALL DIAMETER < 50MM BRANCHES FOULING OVERHEAD TELEPHONE LINES (B) CROWN REDUCTION BY 3 METRES

1 THE FARTHINGS TITCHFIELD COMMON FAREHAM HAMPSHIRE PO14 4

Report By

Paul Johnston - Ext 4451

Site Description

This application relates to one oak tree located within the curtilage of 1 The Farthings. The tree is located within the rear garden of the property, fronting Warsash Road. The oak is covered by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO501).

Description of Proposal

Consent is sought to reduce the crown of one oak by 3 metres due to the proximity of the tree to the overhead telecommunication lines and property.

Policies

The following policies apply to this application:

Fareham Borough Local Plan Review

DG4 - Site Characteristics

Representations

One letter has been received objecting to the application as the extent of the works would impact on the amenity value of the tree.

Planning Considerations - Key Issues

Reducing the oak by 3 metres would result in the loss of the majority of the foliage bearing branches, create multiple large diameter pruning wounds and impair the trees' natural form and appearance. Officers consider the reason given for these tree works is not justified on arboricultural grounds and does not accord with the recommendations of the current British Standard 3998 Tree Work - Recommendations.

The removal of sapwood from the 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 predisposed 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 may predispose them to colonisation by decay fungi or insect infestation and could increase

the potential for the development of disease and decay.

In light of the foregoing a split decision is considered appropriate in this instance. Officers suggest that a lesser amount of works is carried out to the oak tree and the request to reduce the crown by 3 metres is refused.

Recommendation

(A) SHORTEN LATERAL BRANCHES TO NORTHEAST OF CROWN TO PROVIDE 3 METRES CLEARANCE FROM DWELLING AND REMOVE SMALL DIAMETER < 50MM BRANCHES FOULING OVERHEAD TELEPHONE LINES -

CONSENT: Shorten lateral branches to northeast of crown to provide 3 metres clearance from dwelling; Remove small diameter < 50mm branches fouling overhead telephone lines.

(B) CROWN REDUCTION BY 3 METRES -

REFUSE: Inappropriate / poor arboricultural practice; insufficient arboricultural grounds to justify such significant pruning, which would be harmful to the tree's appearance and condition; and therefore the public amenity value of the oak.

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



1 The Farthings
Scale 1:1250

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