

P/13/0451/TO

HILL HEAD

MRS NICOLA AMIS

AGENT: MRS NICOLA AMIS

(A) CROWN RAISE OAK TREE TO 6M ABOVE GROUND LEVEL BY REMOVING SMALL DIAMETER BRANCHES <75MM; (B)CROWN REDUCE OAK TREE BY 2 METRES AND THIN 1 IN 4 BRANCHES PROTECTED BY TPO 632

11 FERNIE CLOSE STUBBINGTON PO14 3SQ

Report By

Paul Johnston - Ext..4451

Site Description

This application relates to a protected oak tree in the rear garden of a terraced property on the south side of Fernie Close and north west of Goodsell Close.

Description of Proposal

Consent is sought to (A) Crown raise oak tree to 6 metres above ground level by removing small diameter branches <75MM; (B)Crown reduce oak tree by 2 metres and thin 1 in 4 branches tree protected by TPO632.

Policies

The following policies apply to this application:

Fareham Borough Local Plan Review

DG4 - Site Characteristics

Representations

Two representations were received, both supporting the works.

Planning Considerations - Key Issues

This application relates to a tree in the rear garden of a terraced property on the south side of Fernie Close and north west of Goodsell Close. Consent was initially sought to crown reduce the oak by 2 metres and thin one in four branches (25%) on a tree protected by TPO632.

Reducing the oak by 2 metres would 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. For this reason the tree works cannot be supported on arboricultural grounds as the pruning is likely to have an adverse impact on the tree's health and vitality, which will be disproportionately greater than any perceived benefit in terms of reducing shading impacts to adjacent home owners.

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 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.

To conclude there is insufficient arboricultural grounds to justify such pruning, which would be harmful to the tree's appearance and condition; and therefore the public amenity value of the oak. Officers have however agreed an alternative level of works with the applicant as shown under (A) of the description.

Recommendation

Consent: (A) Crown raise to 6 metres above ground level by removing small diameter branches < 75mm.

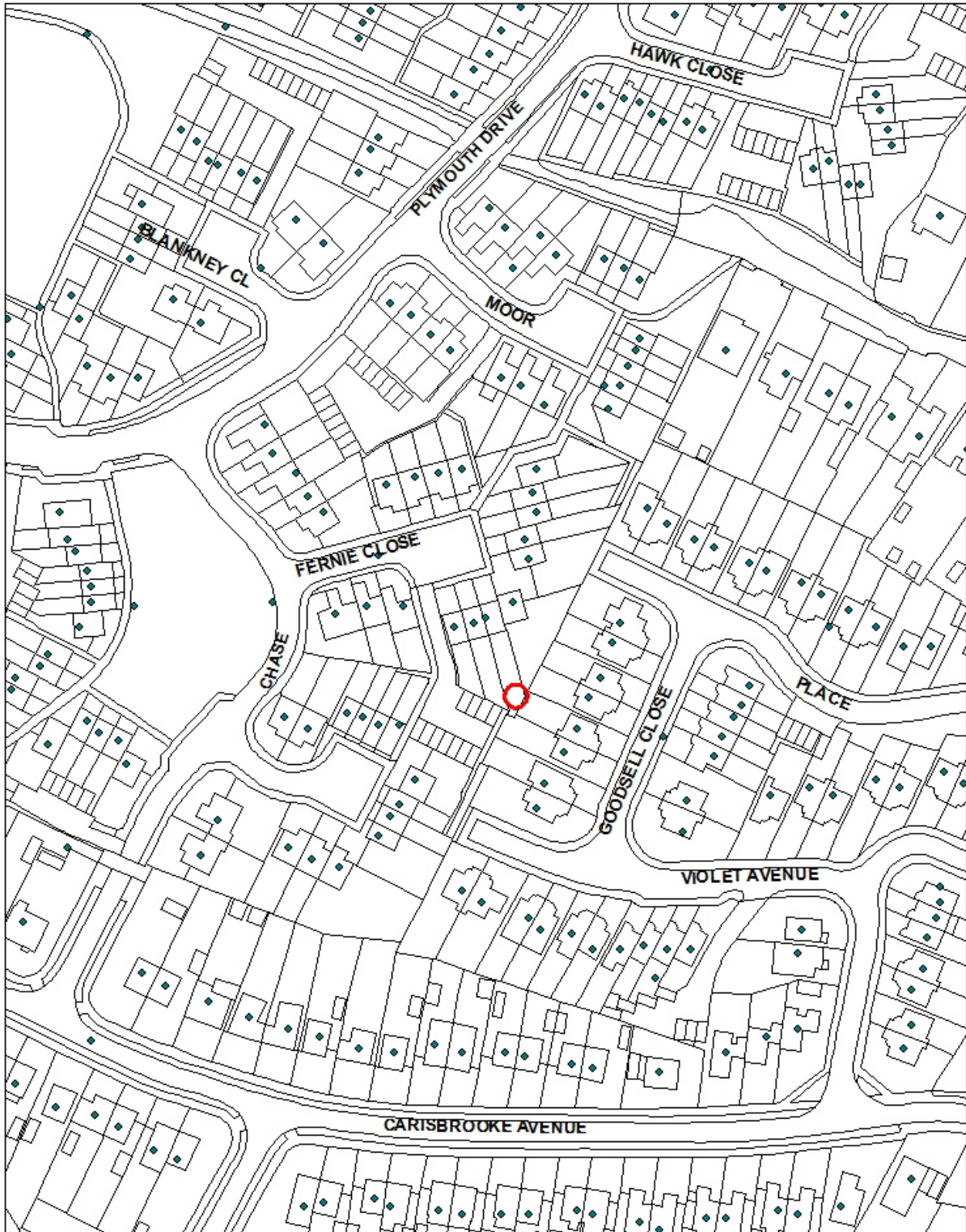
Refuse: (B) Crown reduce by 2 metres and thin one in four branches (25%) - works would have an adverse impact on the tree's health and vitality

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



11 Fernie Close
Scale 1:1,250



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