

PLANNING COMMITTEE – 22 MARCH 2022

Granting consent for Tree Works Application REF. TREE/2021/8484 at Castle Cottage, Castle Road, Horsell, Woking, GU21 4ET

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to recommend to the Committee that consent for a tree works application at **Castle Cottage, Castle Road, Horsell, Woking, GU21 4ET** be **Granted**. The proposal for works is as follows –

T1- Oak : Reduce by 2-3m. Reduce entire crown by 2-3m to secondary growth. Lift crown to 5m.

Recommendations

The Committee is requested to:

RESOLVE that consent be Granted for the Tree Works Application REF. TREE/2021/8484 This Committee has authority to determine the above recommendations.

Background Papers:

1. Map

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Introduction

A tree works application was submitted to the council on 22.12.2021 making a formal request to reduce the crown and crown lift 1 Oak tree.

1.1 The plan from the application showing the location of the trees is attached at **Appendix 1**.

1.2 One objection has been received in relation to this application.

1.3 The recommendation would be to **grant** consent for the works

2.0 Background Information

2.1 T1 is a mature Oak tree located in the front garden of the property. The tree is approximately 14m in height with an even crown spread ratio of 5m.

2.2 The objection which has been received highlights three areas with which the council has considered.

2.3 The first is that the tree is stunning and healthy and has stood for generations. The objection identifies that the tree has been the centerpiece of the garden and that the tree is of little to no risk to property. The points raised within this part of the objection are factual, in that the tree is healthy and a typical example of the species and therefore any pruning is unlikely to be of long term detriment.

2.4 Secondly, the proposed pruning would result in an enormous reduction of the trees overall canopy. The site was visited prior to application and any pruning works which have been applied for are in line with current British standards. BS 3998 states that pruning wounds should not exceed 100mm in diameter except of large trees. In this instance any pruning would will be conditioned to be no greater than 50mm in order to limit the amount of heartwood exposure. The standard also notes that "The number and size of cuts should generally be limited so that their total cross-sectional area does not exceed one-third of that of the stem, when measured at 1.5 m above ground level". Following site visits by the LPA Tree Officer, it is evident that the pruning operation to reduce the tree would not exceed the above stated measurements and is seen as reasonable and of good practice.

2.5 The last part of the objection identifies that any pruning works would make the tree more susceptible to disease. In terms of a risk to disease, all trees are subject to a risk of pathogens affecting the tree and it is well evidence that the exposure of heartwood can increase pathogenic entrances. But another factor to take into consideration is the trees overall vitality as this is a good indication for the trees ability to fend of any pathogens. Given the trees normal crown vitality, the pruning works proposed are unlikely to be of long term detriment.

3.0 Implications

Financial

3.1 None

Human Resource/Training and Development

3.2 None

Environmental/Sustainability

3.3 The tree is likely to continue making a significant contribution to the character and amenities of the locality for many years to come and the works would be of limited detriment to the tree and character of the area.

4.0 Conclusions

The tree is essentially healthy and is of high public amenity value. It is recommended that the tree is inspected formally by a suitably qualified and experienced arboricultural consultant to full ascertain its structural integrity. A crown reduction of 2m and crown lift of 5m would be of limited detriment to the tree and the character of the area.

REPORT ENDS