

Application to work on Trees within a Conservation Area Assessment and Recommendation

Conservation Area : Totnes

Site Address: St Marys Churchyard, High Street Totnes TQ9 5NN

Application Register No : 2381/18/TCA

Applicant/Agent:

Mr Howrihane
Totnes Town Council
The Guildhall
The Ramparts
Totnes
TQ9 5QH

Applicant:

Proposed works: Trees T1 to T8 - Crown lift trees to 2m over gravestones and access path

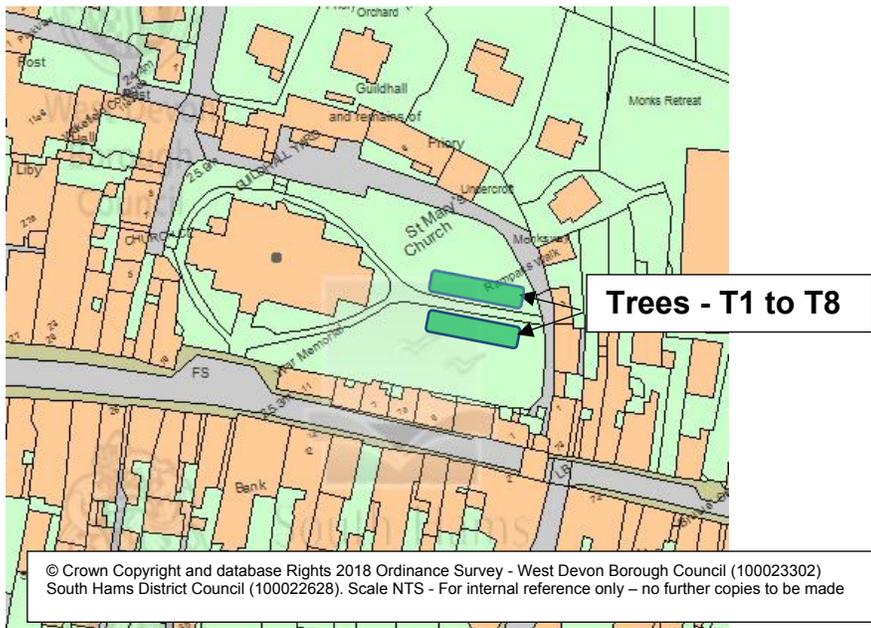
Date of Application : 27/07/2018

Target Decision Date : 07/09/2018 (6 week Notice)

Reason item is being put before Planning Committee: The applicant/agent is related to an employee of South Hams District Council

Site assessed by :

Date :



Recommendation: The Council does not serve a Tree Preservation Order on the trees and the works are allowed.

Requirements of consent:

1. Works to BS 3998:2010

Key issues for consideration:

The impact on the local amenity and character of the area if the trees are pruned in accordance with the served Section 211 Notice

The proposal:

The Section 211 Notice/application for works to trees in the Totnes Conservation Area seek to crown lift 7no. Medlar trees and 1No.hawthorn to 2m over adjacent footpath and headstones. Crown lifting is the action of removing the lowest branches to a defined height. The works are to allow safe, unfettered access, beneath the tree canopies. The trees form a short avenue within the church yard on the eastern approach to the church from the Ramparts.

Consultations:

- Totnes Town Council – No objection; comment over the trees' species (Medlar – not Cherries)

Analysis

The Medlar trees and single hawthorn form a closed canopy avenue within the church yard over an access path; they are of typical form. The trees are in a good condition and provide amenity to the church and its setting within the heart of Totnes. The proposed works are considered necessary to allow people to access the church safely along the path and to walk beneath the canopies attending the graves. The canopies are currently low and branches are a hazard to users of the path and in particular to those with impaired vision. The surgery works are limited in nature and will not adversely impact on the amenity offered by the trees or their longer term health.

Due consideration has been given to the Conservation Area and the trees assessed on their amenity value and contribution to the local character. Officers are satisfied that the impact of the proposed works will not adversely affect this amenity and long term retention of the managed trees.

It is noted that the species have been incorrectly identified within the application as cherry trees – they are in fact 7 Medlar () and 1 hawthorn– this does not materially change the proposed works which have been assessed based on the correctly identified species following the site inspection.

Conclusion

For the reasons outlined above and having assessed the proposed works with reference to the TPO assessment, the application to crown lift the 8 trees to 2m is considered acceptable and therefore officers do not consider that a TPO should be served.