

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

Tree Preservation Order : 218 - South Hams District Council (Parish of Ivybridge) TPO 1983- Varied 26th Sept 2001 G19 (Consists of 2 x Hawthorn & 1 x Willow)

Site Address: 6 Waltham Way Ivybridge PL21 0YF

Application Register No : 3558/18/TPO

Applicant: Mrs Pauline Henstock, 6 Waltham Way, Ivybridge, PL21 0YF

Proposed works: T1: Willow - coppice to 0.3m from ground level and re-coppice every 5 years, majority of trunk dead, has suffered extensive decay, works for safety reasons and to help regrowth.

Date of Application : 11/01/2019

Representation Period ends: 08/02/2019

Target Decision Date : 08/03/2019

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

Site assessed by : L Marshall

Date : 23/01/2018



Recommendation: The Council grants consent for the coppicing of T1 Willow subject to the following Conditions.

Requirements of consent:

1). All approved pruning works are required to be undertaken in their entirety in accordance with B.S.3998 2010 Tree Work - Recommendations

Reason

To ensure all works are undertaken in accordance with current industry best practise as detailed within B.S.3998 2010 Tree Work - Recommendations and to ensure works do not deviate from the attached conditions.

2). The consent hereby granted is conditional on the tree being managed in the following manner: -

- a. That the permitted coppicing noted within this decision notice may be undertaken on a 5 yearly cyclical management basis.
- b. Subsequent re-coppicing may be undertaken no sooner than on a 5 yearly cyclical basis.
- c. No further requirement for permission will be required from the Local Planning Authority for a repeat of those works allowed within this decision notice if successful growth response is observed. If it is brought to the attention of the Local Authority that poor growth response follows coppicing works then the frequency will be extended.
- d. This cyclical permission relates solely to those works approved within this decision notice.

Reason

To reduce the requirement upon the tree owner to undertake recurring tree work applications that prescribe reasonable and arboriculturally appropriate tree surgery works.

Key issues for consideration:

The impact on the local amenity and character of the area if the trees are coppiced in accordance with the prescribed works.

The proposal:

The application seeks consent for the coppicing of 1 willow tree within G19. Coppicing is the action of pruning the tree to a low stump from which new shoots re-sprout to allow the tree to continue its varied benefits, but in a smaller more manageable and safer form dependent upon the trees condition.

Appraisal:

During the site visit it was noted that the tree was a Goat Willow with extensive decay at the base, identified as Honey fungus. (See image 1). The crown is weighted towards a neighbouring garage and the road. (Image 2).

If allowed to grow further it is likely that the crown will collapse as is typical for the species irrespective of the decay at the base. The presence of the decay will significantly hasten this failure and lead to uncontrolled collapse, likely into the garage adjacent or parked car on the driveway.

The prescribed works are considered practical tree management, reducing the risk of damage or harm, whilst retaining the tree as an amenity benefit, albeit on a smaller scale due to the decay at the base.



Image 1: Extensive Basal decay

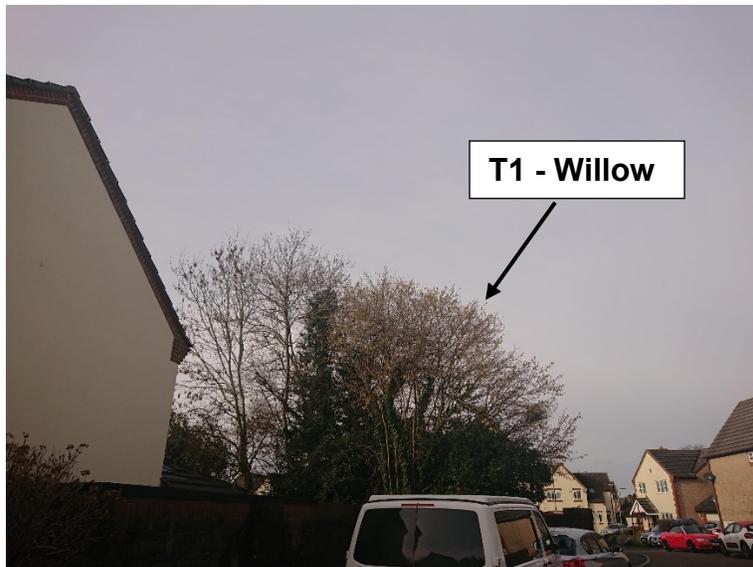


Figure 2: T1 weighted over road

Consultations:

- Ivybridge Town Council
- Ivybridge Tree Warden

Consultation responses (as of 04/02/2019)

- Ivybridge Town Council supported the application, but left the consideration of the cyclical consent for the Tree Officer. Officers support this element of the application.

Conclusion

Due consideration has been given to the amenity value of T1 and its contribution to the local character. Officers are satisfied that the impact of the proposed works will not significantly adversely affect this amenity and that the works are necessary in the interests of safety.