PLANNING CONSULTATION REPLY

To: Laura Bennett	Date: 31.05.2022
From: Edward Jowett	Extn: 2557

APPLICATION: 2 Foxmill View, Millhouse Green, Barnsley, S36 9AB.

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Comments

1 comment has been received for the application from a neighbouring resident:- 'I would like to comment on the above application to fell a horse chestnut tree. I would like to know why the tree is being felled. Is it dead or dying? If not I wouldn't like to think that a tree that continues to blossom prettily in the Spring should not be destroyed on the whim of a home owner. I would think that trees are protected by the council and can't just be felled at will.'

Site Appraisal

The site was visited by Edward Jowett and the tree was briefly inspected.

The tree is an early mature Horse Chestnut tree situated on the rear boundary of the property and is clearly visible from Springfield Way. The tree is the end specimen of a row of trees located along the rear boundaries of Foxmill View. The trees as a group have significant amenity value.

The Horse Chestnut which is subject to this application is in poor condition with symptoms of Bleeding Canker and a large cavity. Ultimately the structural condition of this tree mean it is becoming a health and safety risk to the residents of 2 Foxmill View and Ecklands Croft to the rear. Unfortunately the removal and replacement of this tree is the only sensible option.

The agent has suggested Sweet Chestnut as a replacement and given the issues with Bleeding Canker surrounding Horse Chestnuts this seems like a sensible and practical alternative.

I can therefore confirm that there are no objections to the removal and replacement of the Horse Chestnut tree from an Arboricultural perspective.

Note: Assessments of tree condition and safety are based on a simple visual inspection from ground level. Comments should not be taken as a definitive assessment of tree health, as this should be carried out by a suitably qualified arboriculturist, possibly including a high level inspection. The applicant should be reminded of the owner's legal responsibilities to ensure that trees are regularly inspected and maintained in a safe condition.

Recommendations

APPROVE

The above works are approved subject to the following conditions

Replacement of felled trees

Within the first planting season after removal the Horse Chestnut tree shall be replaced by a new Sweet Chestnut tree (*Castanea sativa*). The new tree shall be planted within 2m of the location for the tree to be removed.

Specification: A standard tree (stem girth 10-12cm) shall be planted and affixed (with flexible tree ties) to a tanalised tree stake (minimum diameter 75mm) at a height of no more than 1m above ground level. In order to aid establishment a suitable mulch shall be applied (e.g. semi-composted woodchip to a minimum depth of 75mm) around the tree to a radius of 1m. The tree shall be watered immediately after planting then whenever required to ensure successful establishment. Within two weeks of planting the Local Authority Tree Officer shall be informed and invited to inspect the new tree. The new tree shall be subjected to a Tree Preservation Order in replacement of the felled tree. Any tree which fails to become established within 5 years from planting shall be replaced with another tree of the same original specification.

Reason: In the interests of the visual amenities of the locality.

Five days notice to LPA and tree surgery to BS standards

Not less than five working days notice of the date of the proposed work shall be given in writing to the Local Planning Authority and the tree surgery shall be carried out to the standards set out in BS3998.
Reason: To ensure the work accords with good arboricultural practice.

Informatives

Time limit for TPO works

The proposed tree works should be completed within 2 years of the date of this consent.

Permission

Before proceeding with the notified works, you should ensure that you have the permission of the owner, and comply with all other relevant legislation, for example it is an offence to disturb nesting birds, and bat roosts.