Eastleigh Borough Council Preservation Order and Conservation Area Application Assessment Form

Site Visit Date: 02/06/2014

Address: Royal Air Force Yacht Club
Rope Walk , SO31 4HD

Application N/14/74523 **TPO** N/A

Case Officer: M Harrison

Work Request/Notification:

2 no. Monterey pines- remove
I no. Corsican pine - remove
I no. Monterey pine - prune to provided 1 m clearance from overhead cables.

Reason For Application:

The trees are suffering from Corineum canker and in poor condition with significant dieback.

Comments:

The trees proposed for removal are in very poor condition and are dead or dying.

Decision:

Split decision TPO not warranted on cypress trees. TPO warranted on Corsican Pine.

Decision Comments:

Only four trees out of the ten included in the submission come under the requirement for a notification. These are T1, T5, T7, T10.

T1 is in very poor condition, suffering significant die back and is unlikely to survive in the short term.

T5 is dead.

T7 has overhead cables running through the canopy. Sympathetic pruning would clear the cables without affecting the aesthetics of the tree.

T10, the Corsican pine is of below average vigour with thin foliage throughout the canopy. It has previously been crown lifted to approximately 10m leaving a small and not very balanced canopy. This said, there is no supporting evidence to show the tree is a danger and none were observed when it was inspected. It provides a landscape contribution to an otherwise sparsely treed area and it is recommended that a preservation order is installed to prevent its removal at this time.

Conditions:

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None

Parish Comments:

The Parish Council also had concerns as none of the trees were marked on the diagram. The majority of Councillors felt that whilst usually happy to delegate decisions to the Tree Officer, these trees form a substantial green area near the river and that they needed to see a diagram showing the positions of the trees to be felled in order to make an informed decision.

Public Objection/support Support Qty: 0 Objection 1

One objection has been received listing the following:

1. Mention is made of trees T1 to T12 but no plan or diagram shows which tree is which. A diagram showing the position of tree T1, T2, etc. is required. No mention of any numbers is given on the sketch plan.

2. There is no statement from a qualified tree horticulturalist regarding the alleged diseases. This must surely be necessary so that he does not satisfy the conditions.

3. No proposals are given for replanting replacement trees, which is a necessary requirement.

4. No technical evidence is given that the alleged damage to the boundary wall is caused by the tree.

Objection Consideration:

1. Both the parish and the objector make the point that the plan provided is not detailed enough, and doesn't clearly show the tree marked on the plan. This is a valid point however, I have been able to identify the trees using the tree tags. Although these aren't present on every tree, because they are sequential and are consistant with the number and description of the trees I was able to identify the trees.

2. Reasons for tree works within conservation areas are not required under the present legislation. I am unaware of the agents qualifications however, with regard to the descriptions of the trees, these are accurate in terms of their condition.

T10 has erroneously been described as a scots pine instead of a Corsican pine and it is probably in decline (as suggested by the thin foliage density) as described. I would like to keep this individual for the immediate future and monitor its condition.

Under the Town and Country Planning Act (2012) this requires the installation of a Tree Preservation Order to stop the proposed works, which in this case, because of its condition being unlikely to survive for more than 10 years is borderline.

3. The Town and Country Planning Act (2012) doesn't facilitate the conditioning of replacement planting of trees with regard to conservation area notifications.

4. With regard to evidence supporting the claim the the boundary wall is damaged, the proposals for T9 are to remove the dead wood only. This is exempt from the legislation.

In summary, given the condition of the trees with the exception of T10, the proposals are justified and reasonable.