

Eastleigh Borough Council Tree Preservation Order and Conservation Area Assessment Form

Application Number	T/24/96790					
Surveyor	SK					
Address	26 WELLSTEAD WAY, HEDGE END, SOUTHAMPTON, SO30 2LE					
Proposed work	1no. Birch (T1)- Crown reduction by 1-2 metres. To reduce the crown for the health & appearance of the tree. The intention is to maintain the shape, strength/integrity & even the canopy. There is a concern about the damage that could happen to properties.					
Assessment Date	13/02/24					
Officer comments	Duplicate of application T/23/95480 from June last year. Tree is growing in a central 'courtyard' of three-story dwellings and can be seen from the rear windows of all the properties on 4 sides. It is not very visible from the highway side of the properties, with only short glimpses being afforded from Wellstead Way and Pomeroy Crescent, but it does offer amenity to multiple properties. The reduction to a birch is ill-advised: the British Standard for tree works cites birch as being particularly unsuited to reduction cuts: 'Species of <i>Betula</i> [birch] which have particularly weak defences against the development of decay, should be pruned as sparingly as possible and without exposing heartwood or ripe wood. The trees are young and relatively small, but they are a light canopy species and suited to the location in which they have been planted. There are few other trees in the inner garden area, though there are trees to the south and east. The tree was possibly planted as a planning condition to replace lost canopy cover, but this has not been checked. The reasons stated for the work do not warrant the tree is small and suited to the location. No property damage is visible or reported. The reasons are counter intuitive as pruning will foreseeably cause harm, which is contrary to the stated aims. There will be a reduction in amenity value in the short and foreseeable reduction the future life expectancy of the tree, the lack of substantive reason gives no ground for consent.					
Decision	Consent	Refuse	Part consent/ Part refuse	Withdrawn / Invalid	Conservation Area	
					Raise no objection	TPO
		X				
Decision notice	Refuse: 1no. Birch (T1)- Crown reduction by 1-2 metres.					
Conditions	N/A					

Notes to applicant	None		
Parish comments	No Objection subject to the usual conditions of the tree officer.		
Public objection/ support	Support	Objection	Observation
	0	0	0
Objection/ support consideration	The Parish comment has been noted.		