
Meeting: Development Management Committee

Date: 02 February 2011

Subject: Application for Works to Trees covered by Preservation Order No. 1/2009 known as “Wharf Mews, Biggleswade”

Report of: Patrick Longland – Tree and Landscape Officer

Summary: To request that the committee consider this application from Mr Alderson of 3 Wharf Mews, Biggleswade, SG18 OAW to carry out works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order at this address.

Contact Officer: Patrick Longland EX 74431

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: Biggleswade.

Function of:

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

None

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the committee agrees to grant consent to carry out work on these preserved trees subject to the scope of the consent.

Background

1. This Tree Preservation Order was made in 2009 as part of the Councils Tree Preservation Order review programme and superseded the old “Shortmead Street, Biggleswade” TPO 1971. This new order was intended to provide protection for those trees considered to provide an important contribution to the character and appearance of Biggleswade.
2. At the request of Mr Alderson I made a site visit on the 27th of September 2010 to inspect the trees within his property with a view to making any recommendations for remedial work or further inspection.
The trees to be inspected are identified as T2, T3, T4 and T5 on the Order.
3. The trees were inspected from ground level only and the general condition of

the four trees inspected would appear to be good although there was evidence of an infestation of Cameraria moth on the Horse Chestnut T3. This is becoming an increasing problem on this species, and although it does not have a major detrimental effect on the tree it does reduce the trees capacity to photosynthesise and therefore makes the tree somewhat more vulnerable to infection from other sources. As a result major pruning work is not recommended unless essential for safety reasons.

The work detailed on the application is in line with my recommendations, and would be considered as minor cyclical maintenance to ensure the health and wellbeing of these protected trees. It also serves as an opportunity to inspect and check the condition of the upper crowns of T2 and T3.

It has also been suggested that the Ivy on trees T2 and T3 is severed and removed at the base to allow a detailed examination and to check for any defects, damage or infection.

4. Recommended specification for the works is as follows :-

T2 Lime and T3 Horse Chestnut.

Remove all epicormic growth to the crown break.
Clean crowns.
Reduce crowns by up to 15% to shape and balance.

T4 Yew.

Clean crown.
Lift canopy over garden to 2.5 metres.
Shape and balance crown.

T5 Yew.

Lift canopy over garden to 2.5 metres.

Raise crowns of all four trees to a height of 3 metres where they encroach over Dark Lane.

5. Conditions attached to the works are as follows :-

- 1 Prior to the commencement of the works, it will be the responsibility of the owner/applicant to ensure that the appointed contractor is fully aware and understands the work specification and all attached conditions. Failure to comply with these may lead to prosecution by the authority.

REASON ; To ensure the compliance of the work specification.

- 2 All works hereby approved will be carried out within one year of the Date of this permission.

REASON ; To allow the Local Planning Authority to review the situation in

In accordance with good arboricultural practice.

- 3 All works for which consent is granted shall comply with British Standard BS 3998:2010 "Tree work – Recommendations". Any works which do not comply with those granted consent or which are not in accordance with the above mentioned British Standard may result in action by the Local Planning Authority against the owner of the tree(s) and the contractor.

REASON ; To define the quality of the work necessary.

- 4 This consent relates only to the work detailed in the recommended specification.

REASON ; To identify the scope of the consent

Appendices: Copy of Tree Preservation Order No. 13/2009