

A05

TCA/TH/24/1105

PROPOSAL:

T1 - Whitebeam - Fell

LOCATION:

Car Park Pier Yard The Royal Harbour Ramsgate Kent

WARD:

Central Harbour

AGENT:

No agent

APPLICANT:

Thanet District Council

RECOMMENDATION:

Raise no objection

SITE, LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The tree is located within the Central Harbour Conservation Area and is visible from Harbour Parade. Although there is a lack of trees in this location, this particular tree is not a large, mature specimen and, as such, does not significantly contribute to the street scene. It would be considered to have low to moderate amenity value.

RELEVANT PLANNING HISTORY

There is no history of works to this tree.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The notice proposes the following works:

Fell 1 No. Whitebeam tree.

NOTIFICATIONS

A site notice was posted near the site. No letters have been received raising concerns regarding the proposed felling.

CONSULTATIONS

None.

COMMENTS

This TCA notice is brought before the committee as the application was submitted by Thanet District Council.

Principle

The proposed work is to fell 1 No. Whitebeam tree, and this notice is made under Section 211 of the Town and Country Planning Act, which covers protection of trees in Conservation Areas. The local authority's only available responses are to either:

- i) Allow the work to go ahead as proposed ('raise no objection'), or
- ii) Make a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) to prevent or control the work.

Therefore, the assessment is based on the impact the proposed works would have on the appearance and character of the Conservation Area, and whether it is expedient to make a new Tree Preservation Order in this case.

Amenity

Trees are integral to the character and quality of an area, providing a visual break and relief from built development. They lend character, particularly in Conservation Areas, and offer many additional benefits, such as providing natural habitats, enhancing health and wellbeing, and improving air quality. Retention of trees is always sought where possible.

In this instance, the tree in question makes a slight contribution to the character and appearance of both the area and the Conservation Area. However, it was reported by the former Open Spaces Tree Officer that over half of the tree's crown consists of deadwood. The officer also noted the presence of necrotic bark on the main stem and girdled roots at the base. Three photos were submitted in support of the proposed work which have been assessed as part of the notification of the work, with a site visit occurring.

Conclusion

Given the condition of the tree and the low/moderate amenity value of the tree in question, it would not be appropriate to create a new TPO to protect the tree in an advanced state of decline. The proposed works are therefore considered to strike an appropriate balance between ensuring health and safety, effective tree management, and maintaining the amenity of the area. Therefore, it is recommended that Members raise no objection to the proposed works.

Case Officer

Matthew Miles

TITLE:

TCA/TH/24/1105

Project

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