



COUNCIL OF THE ISLES OF SCILLY

Planning & Development Department
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OFFICER REPORT – DELEGATED

Application number: P/16/117/TWA	Expiry date: 6 January 2017
Received on: 25 November 2016	Neighbour expiry date: NONE CONSULTED
UPRN: 000192001057	Consultation expiry date:
Legal agreement:	Site notice posted: 25 November 2016
Departure:	Site notice expiry: 16 December 2016
Complies with Development Plan? Y/N If not, ensure you cover in the report how material considerations outweigh the plan?	
Is this decision contrary to local council recommendation?	

Applicant:	Mr Frank Roberts
Site Address:	Broomfields Old Town Road Old Town St Mary's Isles Of Scilly TR21 0NA
Proposal:	Removal of x3 Monterey Pine Trees
Application Type:	Tree Works Applications

Description of site and development:

This is an application to remove three Monterey Pine Trees located prominently in the front boundary hedge at Penold/Broomfields on Old Town Road on St Mary's. The reasons given for tree removal are that they overshadow the garden and are leaning towards the buildings. Their prominent and exposed location would mean they are susceptible to high winds.

Public representations:

A site notice has been displayed for a 21 day period and the application was on the Weekly List. No letters of representation have been received.

Consultee representations:

None

Constraints and designations:

Not applicable

HER Findspots

Name: PERNOLD - Neolithic findspot, Bronze Age findspot.
Period: Prehistoric

Relevant policies, SPGs and Government guidance:

N/a

Appraisal/key issues and conclusion:

It is considered that the trees in question, one of which appears as two trees because it is multi-stemmed, hold a significant amount of amenity value and are visible from across St Mary's. The applicant has noted that the tree roots are coming up through the adjacent pavement, which were covered over with tarmac when the roads were re-surfaced in 2014.

The trees have been inspected for their amenity value, which is noted to be high because of their particular position within the landscape. The site visit also identified that the trees do lean towards the dwellings of Penold and Broomfield and as such their canopy overhangs the front garden. The plot is enclosed along the front boundary by a very high hedge, in which the trees grow, which will not help in relation to the levels of light that can get to the garden or property.

Monterey Pine Trees are not native evergreens to Britain and whilst many warmer climate trees have been introduced to the islands, it is not native or naturalised species. Cornwall Council note that it is a common sight around the Cornish Coast *"Its native range is restricted to a few exposed rocky headlands and islands on the Pacific coast of California. Its salt tolerance, wind firmness and rapid growth have recommended it for planting in the Southwest. It is not frost hardy and growth rates decline with increasing elevation. Monterey Pines are enjoyed by many as a characteristic and now important part of the Cornish landscape. Consideration should be given to the suitability of planting Monterey Pines, because whilst they may be suitable as isolated trees or groups in large gardens and parks, they are less well suited to small domestic places or in the wider natural environment. They are an effective nurse to help establish groups of native trees, but too often they have been left to mature and suppress the slower growing trees"*.

Overall, whilst the trees hold amenity value and are suited to growing in such locations, it is considered that on balance the request to remove these mature specimens should not be held up by the imposition of a Tree Preservation Order, purely on the grounds of the potential damage to property, the apparent age of the trees and the fact that they are not native tree species to Great Britain.

Recommendation:

Raise No Objections