

Council of the Isles of Scilly Delegated Planning Report

Application Number: P/20/057/TWA

Received on: 4 August 2020

UPRN: 000192000916

Application Expiry date: 16 September 2020

Neighbour expiry date: **NONE CONSULTED**

Consultation expiry date:

Site notice posted: 6 August 2020

Site notice expiry: 27 August 2020

Applicant: Mr C Dean Council of the Isles of Scilly

Site Address: 34 Ennor Close
Old Town
St Mary's
Isles of Scilly
TR21 0NL

Proposal: Pollarding including Crown lifting and reducing of 10 no trees. 4 x Elm and 1 x Sweet Chestnut in the garden/boundary of 34 Ennor Close and 5 x Elm on the footpath behind the garages.

Application Type: Tree Works Applications

Recommendation

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1. That NO TPO is made on the Pollarding of 9 Elm Trees and 1 Sweet Chestnut Tree
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Site Description and Proposed Development

This is an application to pollard (including some crown lifting and reducing) 10 trees within the Ennor Close area. There are 4 Elm Trees and 1 Sweet Chestnut Tree in the boundary of number 34 Ennor Close and 5 Elm Trees on the boundary between Launceston Close and the public footpath that runs along the west boundary of Ennor Close

The trees are visible in the street scene, with some wider views of the trees from Old Town Lane to the north west, west and south west of the site. The trees amenity value is largely in the vicinity of Ennor Close.

Consultations and Representations

Public Representations: NONE

Consultation Representations: NONE

Constraints:

Historic Landscape Character: Landscape Type: Settlement

Tree Assessment

The trees are protected by the Conservation Area designation which covers the entire Isles of Scilly. Prior to any person undertaking tree pruning or felling works they are required to serve Notice 211 on the Council, allowing 6 weeks notification of any tree works to be carried out. This allows sufficient time for the Local Planning Authority to assess the appropriateness of the works proposed and determine whether a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) is required, that would essentially permit the use of restrictive conditions on any works proposed. It also ensures that adequate (and qualified) justification is submitted to support the works, particularly in cases of tree removal, where the works are deemed to have harmful impact upon the amenity value they hold and any importance to the character of the conservation area.

It is noted that previously the LPA has resisted 'harsh' pruning of trees in this area which was for crown reduction of two of the trees, in the boundary of number 34, in 2016. The trees are very much within the domestic small-scale housing estate of Ennor Close, and loom largely in this domestic setting. It is also noted that Elm Tree pollarding has been permitted on two TPO trees nearby at the Craft Barn, on Old Town Lane. The supporting statement refers to pollarding but more detail is provided in the supporting statement of crown reducing and crown lifting particular trees. On this basis this assessment considers the fact that some of the trees could be pollarded more severely in the interests of clearance for the highway and to ensure boundaries of domestic properties are managed adequately.

Although the sweet chestnut is an 'introduced' tree species, it is considered to be native on the basis that it has grown in the UK for a period of 2000 years. The Elm trees are native, and the mature trees have a high degree of amenity value within the Old Town area, particularly around Ennor Close. It is acknowledged however that the trees are large for the domestic setting in which they grow. Additionally, the character of the wider Conservation Area, which seeks to protect the historic built environment, is enhanced by the presence of mature trees, particularly the mature elm trees, which are native to the UK. The area of Ennor Close, however, is not considered to be an important part of the wider historic built environment and pollarding of these trees would ensure they are retained but would be of a scale more appropriate to the garden boundary locations in which they grow. On this basis the pollarding works are considered acceptable without the need to designate a TPO.

Print Name: Lisa Walton

Job Title: Senior Officer, Planning and Development Management

Signed:



21/09/2020

Authorised Officer with Delegated Authority to determine Planning Applications
