COMMITTEE EXTRACT

Committee Date:

Reference:- 09/00332/TPO **Parish:- Earl Shilton Town Council**

Applicant:- Mr R Lomas
21 Wood Street
Earl Shilton
LE9 7ND

Location:- Land Candle Lane Earl Shilton Leicestershire

Proposal:- WORKS TO 7 POPLAR TREES AND 1 SYCAMORE TREE.

Introduction:-

This application seeks approval for the works to 7 poplar trees and 1 sycamore tree in enable general maintenance to be carried out.

Consultations:-

There have been representations received from: -

Earl Shilton Parish Council advising that they will be carrying out the works to the trees.

The Local Planning Authorities Arboriculturlist has responded saying: -

Sycamore (Light column 4)

Remove low limb towards garages with constricting rope attached.
Crown lift to 3.5m.
Clean out.

Sycamore (Light column 3)

Crown lift to approx. 8m. to clear light column.

7no. Poplars

There is dieback visible in one tree and minor dead wood throughout with some minor broken/twisted branches.

Trunks and major branches are in good condition.

Decay is present at trunk tops where previously reduced. There is a risk of future branch failure at these points.

Two Poplars closest to lower path with short lateral branches.

Regeneration of side branches has been suppressed therefore only:

Reduce heights to just above previous topping points.

Other five Poplars.

Higher light intensity on the south side has resulted in greater extension growth of lateral branches.

Reduce heights to approx. 1m. above previous topping points
Reduce crowns all round to reshape. (Main branch reduction by approx. 50%.)
Clean out dead wood and broken branches.

All work to be in accordance with BS 3998:1989.

Such crown reductions should ideally be undertaken during the dormant season.

Leicestershire County Ecology replied saying that:

Our records indicate that there is a known bat roost very close to the application site. It is a criminal offence to damage or destroy a bat roost. Therefore, if the tree is mature and has hollow cavities and / or is covered with ivy, or has suitable places in which bats might roost, we recommend that it be surveyed for bats before any work is carried out to the tree. All birds, their nests and eggs are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act. We recommend that work to trees is done outside the bird-nesting season - i.e. between the end of August and beginning March. If work to the tree is to be undertaken during the bird breeding season, we recommend that a suitably qualified ecologist surveys the tree for nesting birds. If nesting birds are present, work must be postponed until the young have left the nest.

I have spoken with Kirsty Gamble and she has advised that as the application is for works to trees then they can not ask that we get an ecology report carried out.

Development Plan Policies:-

No Policies.

Appraisal:-

The trees are in serious need of some maintenance work and the proposed work will be beneficial to the trees and the surrounding area.

I recommend that the application is approved subject to the following conditions.

1 Works to be limited to the removal of low limb on Sycamore (Light column 4) towards garages with constricting rope attached. The Sycamore should also be crown lifted to 3.5 meters along with cleaning out. Sycamore on Light column 3 is to be crown lifted to approximately 8 meters to enable the light column to be cleared.

2 Two Poplars closest to the lower path with short lateral branches. Due to regeneration side branches have been suppressed and therefore only reduce the heights to just about previous topping points. The other Five Poplars due to greater extension growth of lateral branches reduce the height to approximately 1 meter above precious topping points, the crowns should be reduced all round to reshape the main branch reduction should be by approximately 50%. Clean out all dead wood and broken branches.

3 All works hereby approved shall be carried out in accordance with BS 3998 'Recommendation for Tree Works'.

Reasons:-

1 To maintain the visual amenity of the surrounding area.

2 To maintain the visual amenity of the surrounding area.

3 To ensure all work is carried out in a satisfactory manor.

Notes to Applicant:-

1 Bats, nesting birds, great crested newts and certain other species are protected by law. If any such species are discovered before or during the works the works must be suspended and the local office of Natural England contacted for advice.

2 Records indicate that there is a known bat roost very close to the application site. It is a criminal offence to damage or destroy a bat roost. Therefore, if the tree is mature and has hollow cavities and / or is covered with ivy, or has suitable places in which bats might roost, we recommend that it be surveyed for bats before any work is carried out to the tree. All birds, their nests and eggs are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act. We recommend that work to trees is done outside the bird-nesting season - i.e. between the end of August and beginning March. If work to the tree is to be undertaken during the bird breeding season, we recommend that a suitably qualified ecologist surveys the tree for nesting birds. If nesting birds are present, work must be postponed until the young have left the nest.

3 All works are to be carried out during the dormant season.

Contact Officer: - Joanne Orton Ext 5666