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Clerk: Ruth Davies

Toby Fox

Planning Officer

RBWM

27th September 2019

Dear Toby

19/02513/TPO | Silver Birch - fell. | 3 Hillhampton Place Sunningdale Ascot SL5 9TL

This application was reviewed at the Planning Committee meeting on Tuesday 24th September and the committee **objected** to this application for the following reasons.

The Parish Council note that there is no independent arboricultural report or any photographs to support the applicant’s assessment of the TPO tree T49 ‘*showing signs of rotten wood at base of trunk and foliage sparse’*.

The applicant for this application makes no reference to an earlier refused application (14/00111). Then the RBWM Tree team concluded that this same tree was in a healthy condition. Helen Leonard stated that it formed part of a very significant belt of trees which provide a backdrop to properties in Hillhampton Place and should therefore be retained

Application 14/00111 went to Appeal and Mr Crabb, who also made this earlier application, will be aware that the Planning Inspectorate ruled in August 2014 that T49 should not be felled. However, that Appeal did rule in favour of the second nearby birch tree (T50) being felled but there was a very precise condition attached to that felling.

The Appeal decision sated that the ‘*consent to fell T50 was conditional on a Scots Pine (or other tree agreed in writing with RBWM) to be planted as a replacement which must be a minimum height 2 metres and be planted midway between T49 and the Northern boundary’.*

The Planning Inspectorate had stated that the replanting of T50 would then give the *’opportunity to allow (T50) to establish and grow before the other tree (T49) needs to be removed’.*

The Parish Council therefore have two recommendations for the RBWM Tree Team:

1. That this application- 19/02513/TPO – be **REFUSED**
2. The Tree Team visit the site to ascertain the condition, size, tree specimen type and tree location on the site in order to check compliance against the decision of the Planning Inspectorate. Given that this decision was nearly 5 years ago the Parish Council would expect the height of the newly planted tree to be significantly higher than the minimum 2 metre height specified. That Appeal decision also stipulated when the tree had to be planted.

Yours sincerely

Michael Burn

Co-Chair Planning Committee