



SUNNINGDALE PARISH COUNCIL

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Clerk: Ruth Davies

25th August 2020

Planning Officer – Tree Team
Town Hall, St Ives Road
Maidenhead, Berks SL6 1RF

Dear Planning Officer,

**20/01765 - T1 - 2 Hamilton Drive Sunningdale Ascot SL5 9PP
Oak. Crown Thinning by 30%, T2 - Conifer - fell. (TPO 2 of 1964)**

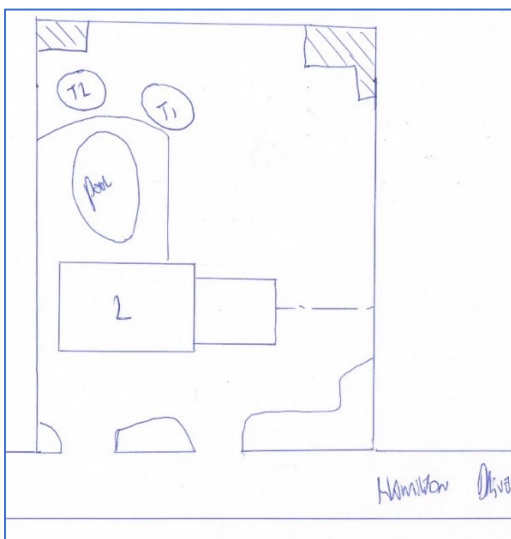
The previous application for works to these two trees (19/03347) was refused by RBWM on 14th February 2020.

That application had requested a '2m crown reduction all over' on both T1 and T2 trees. The reasons stated for refusal were:

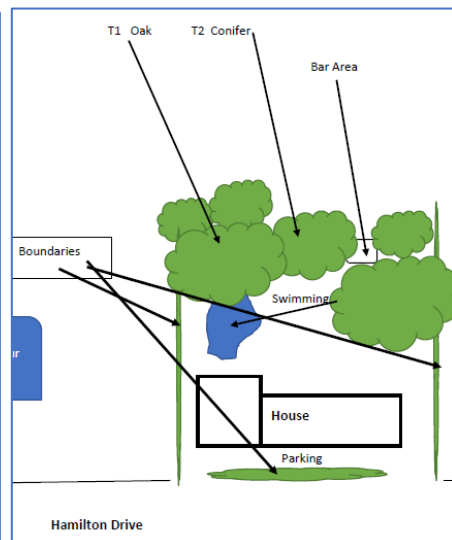
1. The trees contribute positively to the character of the area.
2. There has to be a valid arboricultural reason to justify damage to a protected tree.
3. British Standard 3998:2010 states that any works that expose the wood tissue is a form of damage that can be detrimental to the tree in the long term.
4. The trees are in the NE of the plot so that any shade from the sun will be due North and affect neighbouring properties.

Under 19/03347 the applicant had stated that T1 and T2 were oak trees, however RBWM revised the description of T2 to a sweet chestnut. Hence, how does this current application differ from the previous refused application?

Firstly, whilst T1 is stated as an oak tree the applicant has now specified that T2 is a conifer. This requires some clarification as it was originally an oak tree, revised to a sweet chestnut by RBWM and now it is a conifer. Also, T1 and T2 on the previous application are now transposed on the current application as can be seen in the drawings below:



19/03347



20/01765

Apart from these discrepancies of tree position and description, the Parish Council find it hard to reconcile the RBWM stated reasons for refusal of 19/03347 with the current application.

Reviewing the four stated reasons above for refusal of 19/03347 these would all still seem to apply to the current application for crown thinning of T1.

The works proposed for T2 are harder to understand. The crown reduction proposed under 19/03347 has now been substituted with a proposal to fell the tree to the ground. The reason stated is *'because there is a very real possibility that the roots from the conifer could interfere with the paving slabs'*.

Given that T2 is protected then any ground works that would interfere with the roots of the tree would not normally be permitted in the first place. Also, if it was seen at a later date that the paving slabs were interfering with the roots of a protected tree then this might normally lead to a recommendation to remove the paving slabs rather than fell the tree.

This request for the felling of T2 also fails to overcome any of the four reasons for refusal of the previous application.

There is also no arboricultural report accompanying the application or any photographs of the trees.

The Parish Council request that this application be **REFUSED**.

Yours sincerely

Michael Burn and Yvonne Jacklin
Co-Chairs of Planning