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Clerk: Ruth Davies

Helen Leonard Planning Officer RBWM By email

28 April 2021

21/00958/TPO: Chelsea House Dry Arch Road Sunningdale Ascot SL5 0DD (T1) Scots Pine - fell to ground level.

Dear Helen

The Planning Committee considered this application at its meeting on 27 April 2021 and **Objects** to this application.

This application requests the felling of a Scots Pine (T1). This same request was part of planning application 20/03068, which was Refused by RBWM on 3 March 2021.

In the decision on 20/03068 it states

"The subject Pine tree appeared to be in a relatively sound condition when assessed from ground level, with no outward signs of any significant decay to the main stem or major structural parts of the tree and although the crown is showing signs of stress the tree is not dead as stated in the application form and there is a significant amount of live material remaining consequently the tree continues to contribute to the visual amenity of the locale. This is an attractive tree of reasonable form and, having attained a good height is prominent within the landscape and visible from the public highway contributing to the verdant qualities of the local area, therefore its removal would have a negative impact on the local area".

The applicant was allowed to "Crown clean to remove all dead, broken, hanging and significantly decayed branches".

It also clearly states in this decision that ".... if there are concerns over the trees structural integrity the Council would welcome a further Tree Work Application supported by appropriate levels of arboricultural evidence i.e., full VTA, aerial inspection (with photographs of all bio mechanical defects) and results of any internal decay detection investigations of the lower main stem (i.e., Sonic Tomograph) to justify the proposed removal works".

In spite of this, the applicant has now chosen to request the felling of T1 without any supporting justification other than a few photographs. Additionally, it is now claimed that the tree is suffering from 'red band needle blight' and for this reason it should be felled

In February 2021, the Tree Team carried out a site visit and concluded "T1 Pine, although a little sparse, was in an outwardly sound condition and I could find no evidence of any root plate movement during my inspection therefore its proposed removal does not appear to be justified at this time."

Surely, it is inconceivable that this tree could deteriorate to such an extent in two months that felling is now the c	only
option?	

We ask that this application is **Refused**.

Yours sincerely

Yvonne Jacklin and Michael Burn Co-Chairs of the Planning Committee