



SUNNINGDALE PARISH COUNCIL

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Clerk: Ruth Davies

Toby Fox
Planning Officer
RBWM
By email

28 April 2021

**21/01071/TPO: Lyndale House Devenish Lane Sunningdale Ascot SL5 9QU
T1 - T6 - Limes - pollard at 8m from ground level (TPO 71 of 2002).**

Dear Toby

The Planning Committee considered this application at its meeting on 27 April 2021 and has a number of concerns related to the exact extent of the work requested.

This application requests the pollarding of a row of limes (T1-6). This same request was part of planning application 16/03839, which was Refused by RBWM on 20 January 2017.

In the decision on 16/03839 it states

“The lime trees subject to this application are high amenity features within the local landscape and are protected by the Tree Preservation Order 71/2002/G1. No evidence i.e. climbing inspection supported with quantitative analysis of defects (including photographs) has been submitted to support and justify the proposed reduction operations. The extent of pruning i.e. 'crown reduce by 15 all around' does not meet the requirement of sound arboricultural practice and is contrary to the best practice recommendations contained in the current British Standard 3998:2010 tree work - recommendations as it will effectively removal the entire branch structure from the trees (T1-t6) creating 6 monoliths. The proposed operations would be significantly damaging to tree physiology by the loss of stored energy; loss of photosynthetic material to produce energy to fuel and maintain trees biological processes and will detrimentally increase demands on remaining (limited) energy reserves to produce new photosynthetic material and compartmentalise extensive and multiple pruning wounds. The reduction operations will lead to decay in the major structural parts of the tree and colonisation by known sapwood exposed fungal pathogens Contrary to the statement 'reducing the tree will help preserve the tree the future and reduce the risk of damage to the property/power/phone lines', the proposed arboricultural operations will place the trees under extreme stress and they will either die as a result of this pruning or there will be a profusion of new growth as the tree tries to rapidly recreate the canopy areas that had developed. Any new growth will be weakly attached to the tree and require increase frequencies of inspection and management (further loss of photosynthetic material) to minimise the risk and likelihood of branch failure. Considering the above, the crown reduction operations will have a significant detrimental impact upon visual amenity within the local landscape and tree health leading to their early demise. The application will therefore be refused”.

The applicant was allowed to *“to laterally tip reduce the entire canopy of T1 by 2.5m to reduce wind induced stresses upon the canon and co-dominant stem unions. T2 permission is also granted to laterally tip reduce T6 (southern canopy sector only) up to 2m in length retaining all branch matter equal to and exceeding 40mm in diameter to provide a maximum 2m branch clearance from the roof and east elevation of the property”*.

It is not clear from this latest application, given that it is not supported by an Arboricultural Report, exactly how much growth would need to be removed to reduce the trees to 8m in height.

Given the history concerning these trees and their prominence in the landscape we would urge the Tree Team to conduct a Site Visit to establish the extent of what is being requested and its impact.

Yours sincerely

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