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Clerk: Ruth Davies

Toby Fox

Planning Officer

RBWM

13 October 2021

Dear Toby

**21/02591/TPO - Delamead Onslow Road Sunningdale Ascot SL5 0HW**

**Yew Tree - raise canopy to 2.5m from ground level, reduce crown diameter from a maximum of 12.8m to a minimum of 8.4m and remove deadwood - TPO 25 of 1994.**

This application requests tree works to a yew tree in a prominent public position on Onslow Road.



In support of the proposed works the applicant has submitted the drawing to the left together with difficult to read handwritten notes.

There have been two previous applications on this site for works to the same tree, 15/02021 and 15/02269. 15/02269 had requested a 2 metre reduction in height. In responding to that application, the RBWM Tree Team noted the following:

* the tree was situated in a prominent location and clearly visible from public highway.
* it contributes to the street scene and appearance of the local area.

The Tree Team commented on the proposed works:

* reduction and thinning works will have a detrimental effect on the health and visual appearance.
* will result in extensive leaf loss and create multiple large wounds impairing the trees’ ability to sustain itself making it susceptible to disease and decay.
* will dramatically alter the natural shape and form of the tree.

Hence, in reviewing 15/02269, RBWM appreciated that the trees crown was low over the surrounding garden and certain low lateral branches have become overextended, therefore alternative works would be acceptable:

* branch lift to 2m from ground level,
* tip reduce branches to ensure a 2.5m height clearance from ground level through 360°,
* tip reduce overextended laterals on northeast side over the garden by 1m up to a height of 3m from ground level and crown clean to remove all dead and rubbing branches.

Although the applicant for 21/02591 is different to the applicant for 15/02269 the Parish Council would have thought that a tip reduction and a modest crown lift might be recommended but concern was expressed about the crown reduction from 12.8m to a minimum of 8.4m.

No arboricultural report has been submitted and there is no photographic evidence provided so little or nothing is known about the condition of the tree or its height.

However, yew trees are slow growing, and they are also species that would normally be safeguarded against excessive pruning.

The Parish Council requests that the Tree Team obtain further evidence including a visit to the site to ascertain if a similar decision that was made in 2015 is also applicable to the current proposed works.

Yours sincerely

Yvonne Jacklin and Michael Burn

Co-Chairs of the Planning Committee