Objection to Planning Application - AWDM/0478/21

1 message

[redacted] 27 April 2021 at 18:58

To: planning@adur-worthing.gov.uk

Hello,

Re: AWDM/0478/21 | Application for consent under Adur Tree Preservation Order No. 13.53/1/01 (L) of 2001 to pollard at 14 metres to previous points Poplar trees T3 T4 T5 and T6. | 20 Lancing Close Lancing West Sussex BN15 9NJ

I wish to object to the proposed pollarding of any and all of the polar trees surrounding Lancing Close, planning reference details above, and have enclosed three photos to support my objections.

First of all there is a need to clarify which trees this application relates to.

The planning application form that has been submitted itself actually misrepresents where the proposed tees are situated and showing them as directly behind 20 Lancing Close. As you can see from the attached picture view south from Lancing Close the trees are behind neighbouring properties and not directly behind or even bordering 20 Lancing Close.

Please can you confirm exactly which trees this application relates to. Map labelling on the application form, and on the map screen for this application, shows the proposed affected trees are all in the area to the south of Lancing Close; between Lancing Close and Freshfields Drive and also shows the proposed tree directly behind 20 Lancing Close. Also, one of the previously received responses indicates that one of the trees is actually behind 24 Lancing Close on the west side of Lancing Close and the impact on myself at 25 would be far greater if this is the case. I have attached a picture, View From Elms Driver to the West, detailing how far removed this tree really is from 20 Lancing Close.

My objections are as follows:

The application states that “the work is being carried out to gain more light to surrounding properties and to make them safe.”

Effect on the trees

These trees are under Tree Protection Orders – what is the purpose of a tree protection order if not to protect them from unnecessary destructive and invasive actions?

There is no evidence supplied in the application, or other available documents, that any of these trees are unsafe or pose any safety risk to persons or property. Prior to any consideration for works to be carried out there should be a full safety assessment carried out to establish what, if any, safety issues the trees pose to surrounding properties. Indeed, they are not even directly next to 20 Lancing Close as shown in the attached pictures.

There is also no evidence supplied in the application, or other available documentation, that this action will be of any benefit to the trees themselves. However, there is evidence that it is likely to be detrimental to the trees as another tree in the Close has previously had such pollarding undertaken some years ago and it is clear that the tree has not grown back to its former state - being significantly smaller and with less growth

than the untouched trees. Prior to any consideration for works to be carried out there should be a full assessment of the trees, by an appropriately qualified person or company, and evidence provided that the work to be carried out is of benefit for the ongoing health and welfare of the trees themselves.

Design, appearance, materials, character

It cannot have failed to come to your attention that we are experiencing a climate emergency. Destruction of trees on any level should be considered as a last resort. The poplar trees surround Lancing Close are unlike any other trees in the Lancing area and provide it with a unique character and appearance. Anyone moving to the Close cannot have failed to see these majestic trees that have been here for many, many years and you can see from the number of objections already submitted just how much they mean to the residents here. I find it difficult to believe that anyone could have purchased a property here without being aware of the wonderful tree backdrop that we have.

They give us residents an amazing variety of wildlife to enjoy and share our lives with. Birds alone provide such joy to those of us that live here. These trees and their immediate environs are used by robins, blackbirds, blue tits, chiffchaffs, goldfinches, great tits, collared doves, woodpigeons, magpies, crows, we are visited by a sparrow hawk and in the last year there have been woodpeckers too - I'm sure there are more that I have missed.

As someone who struggles with anxiety this last year has been more difficult than most. Being able to experience the birds and wildlife that these trees provide homes, food and shelter for has provided a valuable opportunity for relaxation during stressful times and all from the safety of my home. For example: being able to watch the squirrels warming themselves in the early morning sunlight during springtime, enjoying the local group of goldfinches pick through the branches feeding on insects, watching the starlings and crows gather at various times throughout the day, even just being able to sit and enjoy a coffee and look up at the movement of the leaves in the sea breeze for a short while provides an important break from the busy and stressful world and its worries.

As well as the destruction of the tree habitats themselves how much of the shrub and lower trees will be destroyed therefore talking away amphibians such as frogs and toads, small mammals such as field mice and protected creatures such as slow worms who are known to nest and live in the surrounding access pathways.

All of the above contribute to the character of the Close and immediate surrounding area and destruction or disruption to this may well be irreparable. Who knows if some of these creatures will ever come back if they leave now – it is not like there are other similar locations round here they can move to.

Overlooking, loss of privacy and light

With consideration to light levels please also consider the impact of removing shade by removing a great deal of these trees. My garden is protected from the strongest of the summer sun by the tree at the back of 24 Lancing Close. This enables our family to use the garden throughout the day during the peak of summer whereas it would be too hot if that shade were removed. The shade this tree provides also greatly reduces the quantity of water that we need to use in our garden on our plants and grassed areas as it provides protection from the full force of the midday sun. This year we have added a pond to bring more wildlife into the garden however, any sharp increase in the amount of direct sun reaching the area is likely to have a significant impact on how well it establishes over the coming months and years. Although their gardens will be different the impact on other neighbours will be similar if these trees are excessively cut back even if the tree next to 24 is not included.

Should the Council decide for some reason not to uphold the many objections that have been raised by our local community then it MUST stipulate that any destruction of this habitat does not take place at times of peak wildlife activity - it is outlined in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 that tree work should be avoided at certain times of year. To ensure that there is minimum disruption to the creatures living in and around these wonderful trees no action should be taken between March and October to avoid disruption to the habitats surrounding the trees for access as well as performing the works. It is already known that we have

the following species nesting in and around the immediate area of these trees at this time: blackbird, blue tit, great tit, robin, wood pigeon, sparrow and starling. We have already seen the first of the slowworms in the surrounding areas below these trees that are starting to come out of their nests at this time of year. In previous years have had foxes breeding here too (although it is probably too early for them to have emerged yet if there are any). Disturbing a fox and her cubs if they have yet to leave their nest may well lead to the cubs being abandoned at this early stage.

I can confirm there is at least one pair of crows actively nesting in one of the trees as can be seen in picture attached, Nest.

I urge you to reject this application on the above grounds and based on the strength of feeling from other residents.

Kind Regards
Stef Ransley

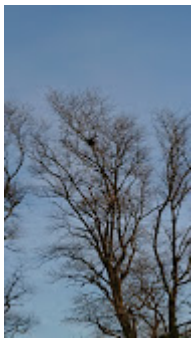
25 Lancing Close

Lancing

BN15 9NJ

---

3 attachments



Active Nest.JPG
4800K



View from the Elms Drive to the West.JPG
7016K



View South From Lancing Close.JPG
3880K