Expires 22/5/08.

Development Control – Delegated Officer Report

Application Number: ADC/0167/08 **Recommendation – Permit Application**

Site: **Whitestyles West Street Sompting Lancing**

Proposal: **Removal of dead wood and reshaping of beech tree (subject to TPO 162/5/76/S)**

The Application

This application seeks permission to undertake works to Beech tree located at the front of Whitestyles, West Street, Sompting. This tree is subject to TPO 162/5/76/SU and is leaning to the east such that the applicants wish to crown thin and remove dead wood within the canopy in order to balance the weight and reduce any further leaning.

Consultations and Representations

Consultations/Comments

Jeremy Sergeant	No objections. Tree is in good health. Recommends 30% crown thin, 4-5 metre crown lift and removal of dead and selected branches to allow better passage of air through.

Third Parties

Sompting Parish Council raise No Objection.

Contributors

No representations have been received.

Relevant Planning Policies and Guidance

Adopted West Sussex Structure Plan 2001-2016 (WSCC 2005): CH4, DEV1
Adopted Adur District Local Plan 1993-2006 (ADC 1996) (saved until adoption of the new Adur Development Plan): AB23
Design Bulletin No.1 'Trees and Landscaping' (ADC 1996)
'Tree Preservation Orders: A Guide to the Law and Good Practice' (DETR 2000)

Planning Assessment

Policies

Local Plan policy AB23 states that Tree Preservation Orders will be made to safeguard existing trees in the District where their loss would have an adverse effect on the existing and future environment and its enjoyment by the public.

Trees

The tree is located at the very front of the property, facing the Sompting Recreation Ground to the south. It forms the eastern end of a row of protected trees along the north side of West Street. The tree itself appears in good condition with a well rounded crown although it is noticeably leaning to the east. In order to reduce the potential for this tree to lean further the applicants wish to remove dead wood from within the crown and cut back some of the heavier branches. It is hoped that this will suitably balance the weight of the tree without impacting too much on its shape.

Jeremy Sergeant has examined the tree and also notes that it is a mature healthy specimen with no obvious signs of damage or decay. It is recommended that a crown thin of up to 30% with the removal of selected branches would be appropriate to allow more light and air to pass through the tree. A crown lift of up to 4-5 metres as required is also recommended.

It is considered that these measures would help to secure the longer term stability of the tree as well as its amenity value to the area.

Recommendation

APPROVE

Subject to:

1. C1Ciii
2. C11M
3. The following works are hereby permitted:
    a. T1 (Beech): Crown thin by up to 30% with the removal of select branches. Crown lift by up to 4 metres as required.

    Reason: In the interests of amenity.

Case Officer:.....

Date: 24/4/08

PB 25/4/08