

REFERENCE NO: CR/2024/0062/TPO

LOCATION: [FOOTPATH ADJACENT TO SOUTHERN BOUNDARY OF SEYMOUR PRIMARY SCHOOL, SEYMOUR ROAD, BROADFIELD, CRAWLEY](#)

WARD: Broadfield
PROPOSAL: 4116 BEECH - SECTION FELL

TARGET DECISION DATE: 29 March 2024

CASE OFFICER: Mr R. Spurrell

APPLICANT'S NAME: Crawley Borough Council
AGENT'S NAME: Crawley Borough Council

PLANS & DRAWINGS CONSIDERED:-

Drawing Number	Revision	Drawing Title
4116		Tree Plan

REASON FOR REPORTING TO COMMITTEE:-

Crawley Borough Council is the applicant.

PUBLICITY / NOTIFICATION:-

As CBC is the applicant, notification is required by way of a site notice. The consultation expiry period ends on 6th June 2024.

No representations have been received, any updates will be reported verbally at the meeting.

PLANNING HISTORY:-

- 1.1 The tree is protected under Tree Preservation Order Reference 16.13.05 'Broadfield North Junior School' – within group number G4 confirmed in 1987.
- 1.2 In 2020 consent was granted for works under application reference CR/2020/0326/TPO - oak x 20, hawthorn x 2, hazel x 15, holly x 3, rowan x 3, beech x 6, birch x 23, goat willow x 1, willow x 2, hornbeam x 1, lime x 3 to thin undergrowth to allow detailed inspection of trees, to crown lift to 2m from ground level to clear footpath and to coppice hazel.

PLANNING POLICY:-

- 2.1 This application must be considered in the context of the following legislation:
 - Part VIII of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990
 - The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012.
 - National Planning Practice Guidance – Tree Preservation Orders and trees in conservation areas.
 - The Council's 'Green Infrastructure' Supplementary Planning Document 2016 (which is a non-statutory document).

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS:-

- 3.1 The determining issue in this application is the effect of the proposal on the health, character and appearance of the tree and the level of amenity that it provides within the surrounding area.
- 3.2 The beech tree is located adjacent to the footpath that runs to the south of Seymour Primary School. It is a large and prominent tree which makes an important contribution to the visual amenity of the area.
- 3.3 Consent is requested to fell the tree. The tree is infected with Ganoderma and resistograph results have identified a potentially large internal cavity, the tree has a very pronounced lean across the footpath and towards Pelham Court. The tree has an estimated life expectancy of less than 10 years.

Interpretation of Resistograph Results

- 3.4 The base of the tree was drilled with a resistograph at each cardinal point. A resistograph is a device which measures and records the resistance of the wood to a long thin drill bit, the more resistance, the denser and healthier the wood.
- 3.5 When drilled from the north side (Basal North) the results show the drilling curve (indicating bit friction) rising steadily as hole depth increases, though not significantly while the feed curve (the force needed for the bit to penetrate the wood) drops slightly at around 16cm depth indicating slightly less dense, compromised wood beyond this depth.
- 3.6 Basal West shows a significant drop in both the drilling curve and feed curve at around 27.5cm indicating dysfunctional, softer wood at this point conducive to the white rot caused by Ganoderma and in this case it appears significant.
- 3.7 Basal South shows the feed curve dropping to near zero indicating a cavity from a depth of 6cm with the drilling curve dropping correspondingly. The drilling was stopped at a depth of 28cm.
- 3.8 Basal East shows the feed curve dropping abruptly at a depth of 10cm to almost zero indicating that the drill bit had broken into the cavity, drilling was stopped at a depth 25cm.

CONCLUSION:

- 4.1 The results show that there is a large cavity at the base of the tree on the south side which corresponds to the location of the fungal brackets. Ganoderma australe has some ability to progress into and decay previously sound wood and it appears that this is what has occurred in the case. The tree also has a significant lean to the south and is rooted on the edge of a slight bank.
- 4.2 Beech responds poorly to heavy pruning and the required level of remedial works would likely lead to decline and a consequent significant loss of amenity of the tree. For this reason and in the interests of safety it is considered expedient to remove the tree and replace.

RECOMMENDATION RE: CR/2024/0062/TPO:-

Delegate the decision to **CONSENT** to the Head of Economy and Planning (to await the end of the site notice expiry period on 6th June 2024) subject to the following conditions:-

1. This consent is valid for a period of two years from the date of this notice and shall only be carried out once.
REASON: To enable the Local Planning Authority to control the works in the interests of good tree management in accordance with Regulation 17 of the Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012.
2. All works should be carried out in accordance with BS3998: 2010 'Tree Work Recommendations'.
REASON: In the interests of visual amenity and to ensure the continuing health of the tree(s) in accordance with The Town & Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012.

3. Within 12 months of the felling of the tree, the owner of the land shall plant a Beech tree, in a location as close to the felled tree as practical. The tree shall be not less than nursery standard size and conform to British standard 3936: Nursery Stock Specification. In the event that the tree dies within five years following such planting, it shall be replaced with a similar tree in a similar position during the next planting season.

REASON: In the interests of the amenity of environment of the locality in accordance with The Town & Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012.



ArcGIS Web Map

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