

Application Number: BH2008/01517 **Ward:** Rottingdean

Address: 43 Rowan Way, Rottingdean

Proposal: To fell 1 x Acer pseudoplatanus (Sycamore), Tree number T.7 covered by Tree Preservation Order (No. 7) 1999.

Officer: Di Morgan, tel. 01273 292186

Date Received: 21 April 2008

Applicant: Mr and Mrs Wark

1 Introduction

1.1 The purpose of the report is to consider the above application.

2 Recommendation

2.1 That the Sub-Committee has taken into consideration and agrees with the reasons for the recommendation set out in paragraph 7 of this report and resolves to refuse consent to fell this tree.

3 Description of the Application Site

3.1 This property is situated on the very northern end of Rowan Way, where it turns the corner and backs on to Eley Drive. The tree is the only tree covered by Preservation Order situated in the rear garden of the bungalow, although there are several trees of smaller stature within the grounds of the property. The specimen the subject of this application is approximately 6 metres away from the property in a landscaped area towards the rear boundary.

4 Proposal

4.1 The applicant wishes to fell this specimen to the ground as they feel it has some rotten branches, it is a large tree in a small garden, in high winds they are scared it may fall on to the house, the smaller crab apple under the canopy is suppressed and a hawthorn 3 metres away will soon be suppressed, the property is inhabited by an elderly couple who have financial concerns regarding constant pruning, as well as lack of light to their conservatory.

5 Relevant Planning History

5.1 No planning history available for this site.

6 Considerations

- 6.1 This Acer is approximately 12 metres in height, and has previously been pollarded at approximately 5 metres. The crown is approximately 7 metres wide.
- 6.2 The tree is approximately 6 metres from the property at 43 Rowan Way and marginally less from the public road and footpath.
- 6.3 At the time of the inspecting officer's visit, the tree had no defects visible from ground level, however, the old pollard points have not received any management, and the owner of the property has not maintained the tree in 16 years. There are 2 – 3 stumps at the pollard point that have rotted back, however, the extent of the rot is not apparent from ground level.
- 6.4 The inspecting officer was of the opinion that the tree offers high public amenity value being visible both over the roof of the bungalow and from the side of the property.
- 6.5 No loss or damage is likely to occur if the application is refused to fell this tree, however, it is strongly recommended that a climbing inspection is carried out and this tree is brought under a maintenance regime.

7 Conclusion

- 7.1 The tree the subject of this application is of some stature and whilst there is no disputing the fact that it needs pruning, a visual assessment from ground level did not reveal any reason why the tree should be felled.
- 7.2 It is strongly recommended that the old pollard points are assessed by a climbing arborist who may conclude that further works are necessary.
- 7.3 The tree still offers high amenity value and it is felt that the impact of its removal will be significant.