

PLANNING COMMITTEE –

**Refusing consent for Tree Works Application REF. TREE/2021/8274 at Wey Cottage
11 Church Road, Byfleet, West Byfleet, Surrey, KT14 7EH**

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to recommend to the Committee that consent for a tree works application at **Wey Cottage, 11 Church Road, Byfleet, West Byfleet, Surrey, KT14 7EH 2QX** be **REFUSED**. The proposal for works is as follows –

T1 Oak – Crown reduce by 6m

Recommendations

The Committee is requested to:

RESOLVE that consent be REFUSED for the Tree Works Application REF. TREE/2021/8274

This Committee has authority to determine the above recommendations.

Background Papers:

1. Completed application form by the applicant
2. Map

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Introduction

A tree works application (**Appendix 1**) was submitted to the council on 05.07.2021 making a formal request to fell 1 Oak tree.

1.1 The plan from the application showing the location of the trees is attached at **Appendix 2**.

1.2 No Objections have been received in relation to this application.

1.3 The recommendation would be to **refuse** consent for the works

2.0 Background Information

2.1 T1 is a mature Oak tree located in the rear garden of the property. The tree is approximately 16m in height with an even crown spread ratio of 7m. The tree has recently suffered from a case of summer branch drop which has resulted in an application to reduce the tree.

2.2 Summer branch drop is a phenomenon which occurs unexpectedly and usually following periods of heavy rain and hot weather. It is very difficult to predict but can be remedied through suitable reduction works prior to failure. It does not usually warrant entire tree removal unless the part of the tree which has failed is so significant that the tree is left unstable. In this instance the branch which has failed is approx 250mm in diameter and does not appear to have caused total tree instability. Whilst it has been outlined that reduction may mitigate for this type of failure, an overall reduction of 6m has not been justified and would be considered too much unless further evidence is brought forward.

2.3 No further evidence has been submitted to justify a 6m crown reduction. During the tree officers' site visit it was noted that the tree had been historically reduced many years ago and this has now lapsed. It was also noted that there was the presence of both woodpecker holes and a fungal fruiting body on one of the main ascending limbs of the tree. It is recommended that these defects are investigated appropriately.

2.4 It has also been noted that there is OPM (oak processionary moth) present in the tree.

2.5 The applicant has identified that they are an elected member of the council

3.0 Implications

Financial

3.1 None

Human Resource/Training and Development

3.2 None

Environmental/Sustainability

3.3 The tree is likely to continue making a significant contribution to the character and amenities of the locality for many years to come and the works would be of significant detriment to the tree and character of the area.

4.0 Conclusions

The tree is essentially healthy and is of high public amenity value. It is recommended that the tree is inspected formally by a suitably qualified and experienced arboricultural consultant to full ascertain its structural integrity. The reduction of a tree of this age would be of detriment to the tree and the character of the area.

REPORT ENDS