

Application Number: BH2009/01695 **Ward:** East Brighton

Address: Hamilton Lodge School for the Deaf
Walpole Road, Brighton

Proposal: To fell 1 Sycamore (Acer Pseudoplatanus), tree number
T.3 of Tree Preservation Order (No. 1) 1986.

Officer: Di Morgan, tel. 01273 292929

Date Received: 3 July 2009

Applicant: Beechwood Tree Specialists

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 **grant** consent subject to the following conditions:

- The felling shall be carried out within two years under the supervision and to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority.
- The said existing tree shall be replaced by a tree of a size and species and in a position to be agreed by the Local Planning Authority.
- The replacement tree shall be planted during the period November to March next, following the felling of the existing tree, and such planting shall be in all respects to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority.
- If, within a period of two years from the date of the planting, the tree (or any other trees planted in replacement for it) is removed, uprooted or destroyed or dies, another tree of the same size and species shall be planted at the same place, or in accordance with any variation for which the Local Planning Authority gives its written consent.

3 Description of the Application Site

3.1 This tree is situated within the grounds of Hamilton Lodge School for the deaf. It is situated on a steep bank in a grassed wildlife area.

4 Proposal

- 4.1 The applicant wishes to fell this tree as it is situated on a steep bank and its strange structure makes it attractive for the young deaf children to climb. Unfortunately, as the children are deaf and cannot be shouted at to get off the tree, it means a member of staff always has to stand guard on the tree when this area is being used. It is felt by the school that it has low amenity value.

5 Relevant Planning History

- 5.1 None.

6 Considerations

- 6.1 This Sycamore has five stems, and is approximately 8 metres high with a crown spread of approximately 8 metres. Its shape and structure would make it attractive for children to climb. At least two of the stem unions are poor, showing signs of included bark which will always be a weak union.
- 6.2 These weak unions at the base of the tree may fail with the extra weight of a child on. The stems are on a steep bank which the child would then fall down.
- 6.3 The children using this area will be deaf which means a responsible adult would always have to be in the vicinity as they could not be shouted at to get out of the tree.
- 6.4 The school are in the process of landscaping this area for wildlife. They are happy to plant a replacement that will attract wildlife to this area.
- 6.5 The area in which the tree stands adjoins a public footpath that leads from Walpole Road up to The Causeway, indicating that it does have some public amenity value.
- 6.6 The tree could be fenced off to prevent children from climbing it.
- 6.4 No loss or damage is likely to occur if felling of the above tree is refused as long as preventative measures are taken to stop it from being climbed.

7 Conclusion

- 7.1 The tree the subject of this application has little public amenity value, the footpath that it adjoins does not have a high amount of pedestrian traffic.
- 7.2 The built-up environment in this part of town means that land use for the school is at a premium. It would seem a shame to fence part off as it cannot be used. It would seem better to plant another tree in this wildlife area for everyone's enjoyment.

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The multi-stemmed tree, situated on a steep bank, that is the subject of this report.



The multi-stemmed nature of this tree has many poor unions of included bark which are weak points in the tree's structure.

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Date: 13/07/2009 10:54:04

Scale 1:500

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