

Application Number: BH2009/02768 **Ward:** Patcham
Address: 25 Highview Avenue North
Proposal: To fell 1 x Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) covered by Tree Preservation Order (No 10) 1996
Officer: Di Morgan, tel. 01273 292929
Date Received: 5 November 2009
Applicant: Brighton 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 6 of this report and resolves to **refuse** consent.

3 Description of the Application Site

3.1 Highview Avenue North is a cul-de-sac off Ladies Mile Road in Patcham. The garden of number 25 Highview Avenue North has seven other trees covered by this preservation order. The tree the subject of this application is situated right at the far end of the rear garden, backing on to a field that is in private ownership.

4 Proposal

4.1 The applicant wishes to fell this tree as it is felt it is in close proximity to the neighbouring bungalow at number 28 Highview Road (approximately 10 metres away), causing loss of light. Both the neighbouring property and the property at number 25 Highview Avenue North suffer from lack of light because of the alleged excessive amount of trees in the rear garden of number 25 Highview Avenue North.

5 Considerations

5.1 The tree the subject of this application is a mature Horse Chestnut situated in the far corner of the rear garden of the property. This is to the south-west and the tree will therefore block sunlight to the garden of number 25 as well as create shade issues in the neighbouring garden.

5.2 At the time of the inspecting officer's visit, there appeared to be no structural defects and the tree appeared to be in good health.

- 5.3 The tree has very limited public amenity value.
- 5.4 As already stated, in the garden of number 25 there are 7 other trees. Another Horse Chestnut in the garden is dead and will be felled under the five day exemption rule for trees that may be considered dead dying or dangerous. There were rhizomorphs under the bark of this tree indicating the presence of Honey Fungus (*Armillaria* spp). This is a highly infectious disease that is likely to affect other vegetation in this area, including the trees. The fact that the disease is present is not a valid reason for felling this tree at this time. If the tree the subject of this application succumbs to Honey Fungus, then the decision can be made to fell it.
- 5.5 The purpose of the report is to consider the above application.

6 Conclusion

- 6.1 At the time of the inspecting officer's visit, the tree the subject of this application appeared to be in fine health.
- 6.2 The problems regarding light could be alleviated by judicious pruning of the tree and therefore it is felt that there is no need to fell this tree at this time.

BH2009/02768
25 Highview Avenue North, Patcham



The tree the subject
of this application.

