

Application Number: BH2010/02217 **Ward:** Rottingdean

Address: Outside 1 The Vale, Ovingdean, Brighton

Proposal: To fell 1 x Populus x canescens (Grey Poplar)
covered by Tree Preservation Order (No 1) 2002

Officer: Di Morgan, tel. 01273 292929

Date Received: 12 July 2011

Applicant: Mark Haddock, Organic Matters

1 Introduction

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

2 Recommendation

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.

3 Description of the Application Site

3.1 The tree the subject of this application is an enormous specimen at the entrance to the northern end of The Vale, in Ovingdean.

3.2 The over-mature tree, whilst being under the ownership of 1 The Vale, is actually situated on a woodland verge area just outside the boundary fence of the property.

4 Proposal

4.1 The applicant wishes to fell this tree as his client is very concerned about the safety of the public beneath the tree (this road is used by pupils from the nearby Longhill School). The tree has an excessive amount of deadwood and hung-up / torn limbs. A solicitor has advised removal of the tree and it is felt a reduction of the tree would be inappropriate as work would then be required every 2 – 3 years.

5 Considerations

5.1 The over-mature tree the subject of this application is approximately 22 - 25 metres high with a joint canopy spread with the Aspen to its north, the subject of another report before this Committee.

5.2 The tree is very prominent on the landscape.

- 5.3 There are large amounts of deadwood in the canopy but there were no structural defects visible at the time of the inspecting officer's visit that would indicate the tree should be felled.
- 5.4 The tree is ivy clad to 6 metres. The ivy should be removed if possible to allow a full Visual Tree Assessment (ie, the ivy may be masking defects that would indicate the tree should be felled).
- 5.5 The tree does have a large canopy and could be pruned to sufficiently reduce the risk of failure.

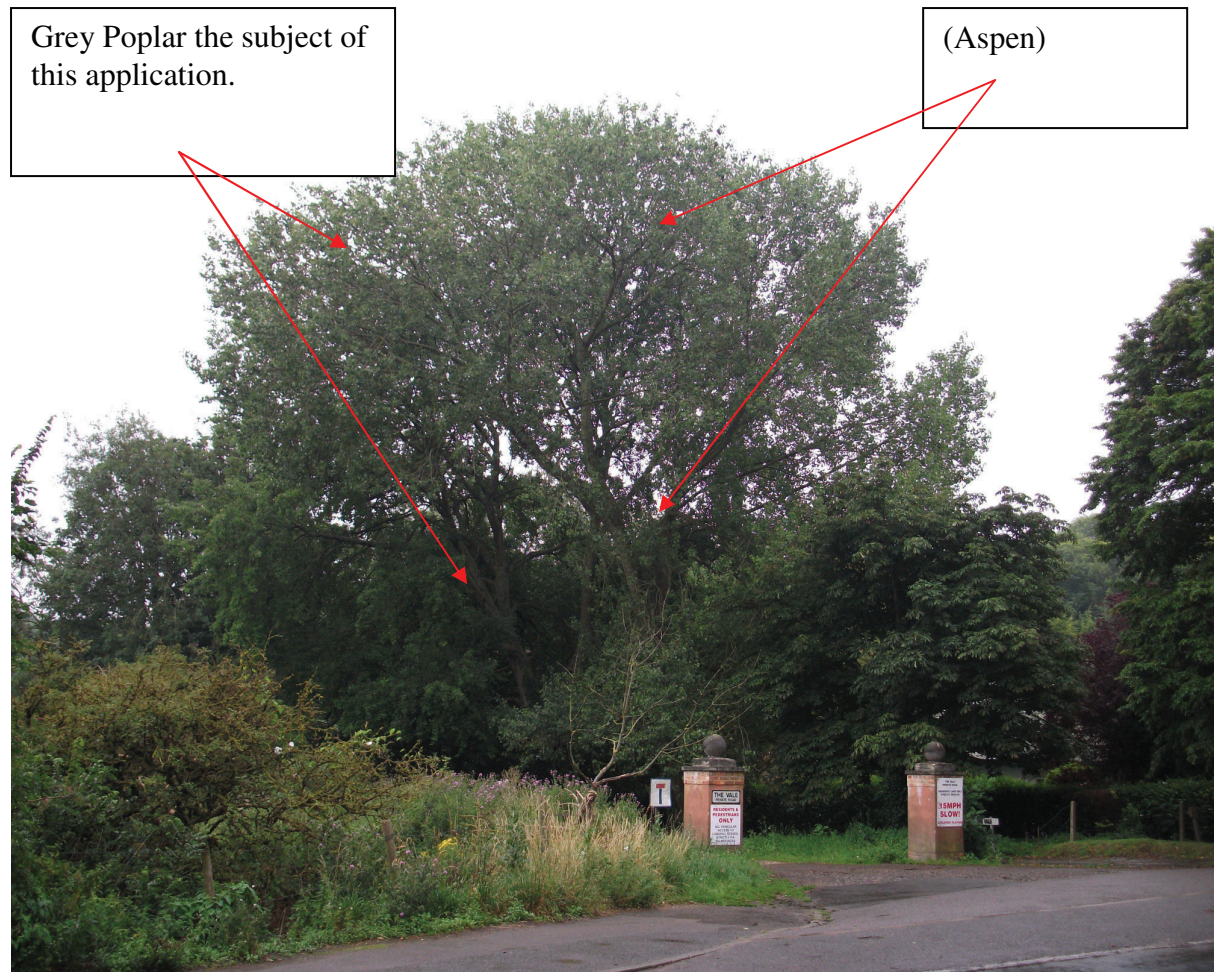
6 Relevant Planning History

- 6.1 None.

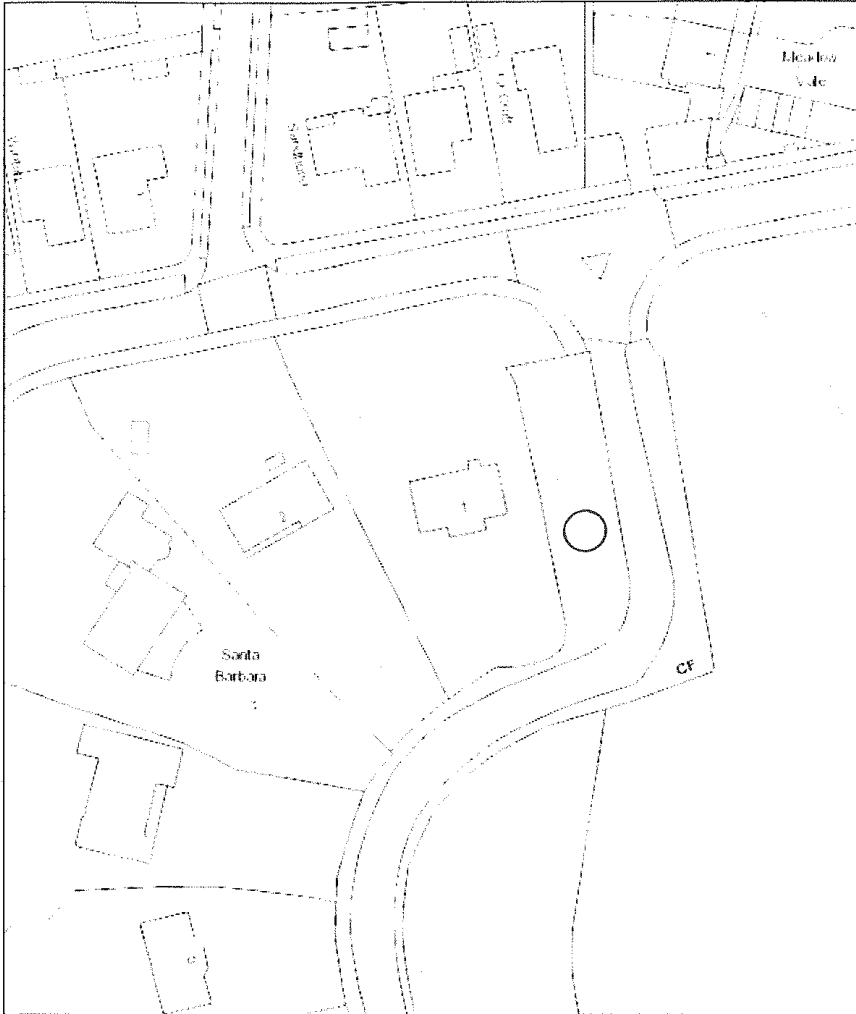
7 Conclusion

- 7.1 This tree is highly visible from the road and pavement. It has high public amenity value.
- 7.2 The tree has large amounts of deadwood, however, there were no structural defects visible at the time of the inspecting officer's visit. Removal of the deadwood and judicial pruning should reduce the risk of the tree failing sufficiently enough to allow its retention.

BH2011/02217: 1 The Vale (Grey Poplar)



Town & Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (No 1) Order 2002



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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gillian Marston".

Gillian Marston
Head of City Infrastructure