Clements Terrace (Spalding) Management Company Limited
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TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
TREE WORKS IN A CONSERVATION AREA

Reference: H16-0645-24 **Date of Decision:** 11th September 2024

Applicant: Clements Terrace (Spalding) Management Company Limited
Holland House
17 High Street
Spalding
Lincolnshire
PE11 1TW

Location: Holland House 17 High Street Spalding Lincolnshire

Description: Works to Trees in Spalding Conservation Area

Detailed Description:

Notification of works to five silver birch trees.
'The trees are in the demise of the area managed by the car park for the houses on Clements Terrace at bottom of Holland Road. The Car Park Management Company is responsible for maintaining the trees.' Please see the plan accompanying the Notification for the position of the trees.
'Birch (all 5) - We want to cut them down to half their current height rather than remove them. Then let them grow back naturally for 4-5 years and repeat. The leaves keep blowing into peoples gutters and the car park. Some residents have complained.

The trees in question were planted in 2015 as part of the development. But have now reached 12-14m in height. They appear in good health but the leaves are filling up in gutters and blowing into the car park regularly.
Residents have request they be reduced in height to alleviate the problem.'

South Holland District Council has considered the proposal and has no objections, subject to any recommendation set out below;

1 That the proposed work is carried out within two years of the date of this letter of 'No Objection'.

2 Work is to be carried out in accordance with BSI 3998 : 2010, 'Recommendations for Tree Work'.

Notes:

The necessary consent of all other interested parties should be obtained before the works proceed.

Silver birches should be pruned in late summer and autumn as bleeding of sap from pruning works can be a problem at other times of the year.

Although the Local Planning Authority is not in a position to object to these works, it does not agree that the proposal is good practice.

To effectively top a young healthy silver birch is one of the worse things one can do to it, weakening its structure for life and often making it grow into a heavier denser looking tree with many more leaves to shed than the original; rather than being dainty, slender and graceful in appearance. It is noted that you appreciate that the far denser re-growth will require regular removal, not only to retain a smaller tree but to prevent the weakly attached re-growth from blowing out. You might find that by selectively reducing branches back to existing growth points, but keeping the trees present shape is more effective, than straight halving in height. The trees could be selectively crown lifted which would help too. Have annotated one of your photographs to help explain this. The Trees and Nature Conservation Officer is happy to meet you on site to discuss if would be of help. The suggested alternative works may be carried out under this Decision.

Future pruning of re-growth will require a fresh Notification to be made.

Gutters can have various coverings fitted which are supposed to help reduce clogging with leaves.

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) all birds, their nests and eggs are protected by law and it is an offence to damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built. In the event of query please contact Natural England on Tel: 03000 603900.

Bats are protected species under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and in the event that bats are living in any cavities in the tree(s), or if they are discovered while the works are taking place, please inform Natural England on Tel: 03000 603900 before works proceed.



Phil Norman
Assistant Director - Planning and Strategic Infrastructure
South Holland District Council