

From: Peter Pitkin <trees@grangeassociation.com>
Sent: 25 August 2021 12:54
To: ellen mccalman; ruthe davies; Planning Trees
Cc: Nigel Ayton
Subject: 21/04378/TPO, 12 Hope Terrace

21/04378/TPO, 12 Hope Terrace.

Dear Ellen/Ruthe

Concerns have been raised locally about this proposal for extensive work on the TPO site, in particular the intention to remove two Norway maples and a sycamore on the E boundary, behind and just to the S of the garages.

My understanding is that the TPO applies only to the four deodars in the back garden. The other trees of particular interest in the grounds are the turkey oak and the chestnut on the W boundary of the back garden, both of which are beginning to impair the growth of the two deodars on that side of the garden. Given that the deodars should perhaps be our first concern, some cutting back of the oak and chestnut is justified, indeed arguably overdue. And for the same reason, I don't think we can object to the removal of the central birch (B. jacquemontii).

From the Association's point of view, however, it is distressing to see the proposal to fell four mature trees - the chestnut, two Norway maples and a sycamore. We feel that the case needs to be more substantively made than it is in this application.

I have been able to look at the maples and the sycamore reasonably closely from the adjoining garden – the following observations may be helpful:

1. Norway maple – northernmost, behind the garage (c. 18ins x >40ft). Has been pollarded and cut back in the past – there is the stump of an old branch on the NE side. A double branch on the N side is visibly decayed above the point where it forks, and the sparse foliage on both stems looks decidedly unhealthy. Other parts of the tree that are visible appear healthy. The tree is squeezed-in between the garage and the party wall, with very little room for the trunk to expand. There are minor cracks in the party wall.
2. Sycamore – behind garages, against E boundary (40-50 ft). Younger than the maples and possibly self-sown. Growing very close to the wall (but not cracking or distorting it) and with the crown very lopsided toward the W. Otherwise nothing visibly wrong with it.
3. Norway maple - against boundary, S of the garages (c. 26ins x 55ft). Originally dividing into three stems at C. 12 ft, but one removed about 10 years ago and the two remaining pollarded at c. 25-30ft. The substantial stump, although not completely dead, has fruiting bodies of Polyporus squamosus (dryad's saddle), which causes a 'white rot'. The fungus will not necessarily kill the tree – the literature indicates that in some cases it remains contained. The foliage of the (unbalanced) crown appears healthy.

The planning application 11/00757/FUL gave approval for the removal of the first two of these trees; I failed to find any application relating to work on the third. Before the third is felled, we would hope to see some assessment of the extent of the infection in order to determine how extensive it is and whether the infected material can be removed. And we would hope to see a similar cautious approach applied in the case of the chestnut.

In any case, if several trees are lost from the site, we would very much hope to see replacements planted. In order to ensure this happens the best outcome would appear to be to extend the scope of the TPO to cover the other trees on the site. That would give the council the option of proposing a less drastic alternative.

Best regards,

P.P.

Peter Pitkin, on behalf of the Grange Association.

