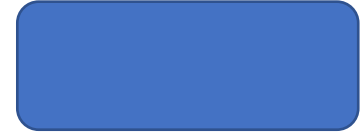




Pennington and Lymington Lanes Society (PALLS)

Protecting the distinctive character of our lanes



pennandlymlanes@gmail.com

2nd December 2020

Hannah Chalmers
Senior Tree Officer
Planning
New Forest District Council
By email: Hannah.chalmers@nfdc.gov.uk

Dear Hannah,

Objection to Tree Work application ref TPO/20/0627, Northfield, Lower Pennington Lane, Lymington, SO41 8AN

I write on behalf of PALLS – the Pennington and Lymington Lanes Society. Thank you for your consultation on this application, received by email on 19th November 2020. We represent 700 residents of Pennington Lymington and the surrounding area and a copy of our aims and objectives is included at the end of this letter. We object to the above tree works application on the following grounds:

1. The condition of the trees does not justify the extent of the works for which consent is applied.
2. The trees subject to this application are protected by TPO/0025/17 confirmed on 15/6/17. This is a recent and up to date tree preservation order imposed to protect the considerable amenity value and benefits afforded by the trees and because of the threat posed by adjacent housing development. In granting permission for a tree works application the priority should be to achieve a managed regeneration of the tree belt through selective felling, pruning and re-planting to secure the future of this important landscape feature. The submitted application does not do this and the tree report completely ignores the important role of this linear tree belt on the local landscape and in particular the character of the lanes, and the protection given to it in both the Lymington Local Distinctiveness SPD (Area 10 – Rural Lanes) and Policy SS6 of the adopted Local Plan.

We have attached for your consideration a letter from John Shutler Tree Services, a local Arboricultural Contractor and Consultancy, which sets out in more detail how a managed regeneration of the tree belt could be achieved as an example of good arboricultural practice for a situation such as this.

3. The application has been submitted on health and safety grounds. Whilst some works are considered justified and necessary, the scale of the works proposed cannot be justified solely on health and safety grounds. In determining this application appropriate consideration should be given to the planning and arboricultural history of this site and the degree to which the conclusions of the submitted tree survey have been influenced by matters other than health and safety.

In particular, we draw your attention to following:

- the failure of the landowner to implement previous works approved on health and safety grounds (TPO/17/0881);
 - the marking out on the ground of a taped area (assumed to be a visibility splay) within which the majority of the tree felling is proposed;
 - the failure of the application to make any reference to re-planting in either the tree report or in response to Q.5 of the application form; and
 - the degree to which the conclusions of the 2020 tree survey differ from those drawn in 2017 on the same trees in the same condition.
4. If the Council's tree officer considers that trees have to be felled for health and safety reasons, then replanting of semi mature trees must be a minimum requirement. Such planting should take place within the existing tree belt to which this application relates, on the existing bank in order that the enclosed and sunken character of the lane is maintained and any felling must not compromise the integrity of the bank or have a detrimental effect on those trees which remain. This should be secured as a condition of any consent.

We should be clear that PALLS do not oppose appropriate management of this landmark pine group in the context of its retention and enhancement for future generations to enjoy. However, we consider that the scale of the proposed felling is totally excessive and that the applicant has failed to consider alternative approaches which would secure the future of this important tree belt and still meet health and safety obligations.

We urge the District Council to reject the application as submitted on the grounds that the scale of the works are unjustified on health and safety grounds and to invite the applicant to re-submit a properly thought out proposal for appropriate management, renewal and maintenance of this important landscape feature.

Thank you for considering our objections to this application.

Yours sincerely,

Bruce Tindall
Chair, Pennington and Lymington Lanes Society

Enc. Letter to PALLS from John Shutler Tree Services

Pennington and Lymington Lanes Society (PALLS) is a constituted society which aims to protect and enhance the tranquillity, rural environment and special character of the Lanes and their environs by:

- resisting inappropriate development;
- protecting the green character of this area from urbanisation so it can continue to be enjoyed by the community, residents and visitors alike;
- maintaining the tranquillity and environmental quality of this sensitive area including land within the Green Belt and within and adjacent to the New Forest National Park.