

Application Number: BH2010/02101 **Ward:** Rottingdean

Address: Outside 1 The Vale, Ovingdean, Brighton

Proposal: To fell 1 x Populus tremula (Aspen)
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

2.1 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 **grant** consent subject to the following conditions:

- The felling shall be carried out within two years under the supervision and to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority.
- The said existing tree shall be replaced by a tree of a size and species and in a position to be agreed by the Local Planning Authority.
- The replacement tree shall be planted during the period November to March next, following the felling of the existing tree, and such planting shall be in all respects to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority.
- If, within a period of two years from the date of the planting, the tree (or any other tree planted in replacement for it) is removed, uprooted or destroyed or dies, another tree of the same size and species shall be planted at the same place, or in accordance with any variation for which the Local Planning Authority gives its written 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 it is in decline, having die-back on the western side. A large limb has been torn away approximately 2 metres from ground level, and evidence of a wasps nest within the main trunk at 10 m. The tree is approximately 25 m in height. It may become unstable due to the above possible failure points, and a pollard would be aesthetically wrong.
- 4.2 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).

5 Considerations

- 5.1 The tree the subject of this application is approximately 22 - 25 metres high with a joint canopy spread with the Grey Poplar to its south, the subject of another report before this Committee.
- 5.2 The tree is very prominent on the landscape.
- 5.3 There is a large pruning wound at approximately 4 metres, the branch cone is visible and decayed – a possible rot pocket.
- 5.4 The tree is twin stemmed at approximately 10 metres. One stem has a visible rot pocket and signs of decay. There is excessive deadwood on the western side of the canopy. The other stem has a wasps nest just above the stem union, indicating a possible cavity.
- 5.5 Poplars have a high tendency to fail at defect points.
- 5.5 The tree could be pollarded above the 10 m twin stem union, however, this will render the tree aesthetically unpleasing and unworthy of Tree Preservation Order.
- 5.6 There is a semi-mature *Aesculus hippocastanum* (Horse Chestnut) growing under the canopy of the Aspen. This tree should flourish and has the potential to be a fine specimen if the Aspen is removed.

6 Relevant Planning History

6.1 None.

7 Conclusion

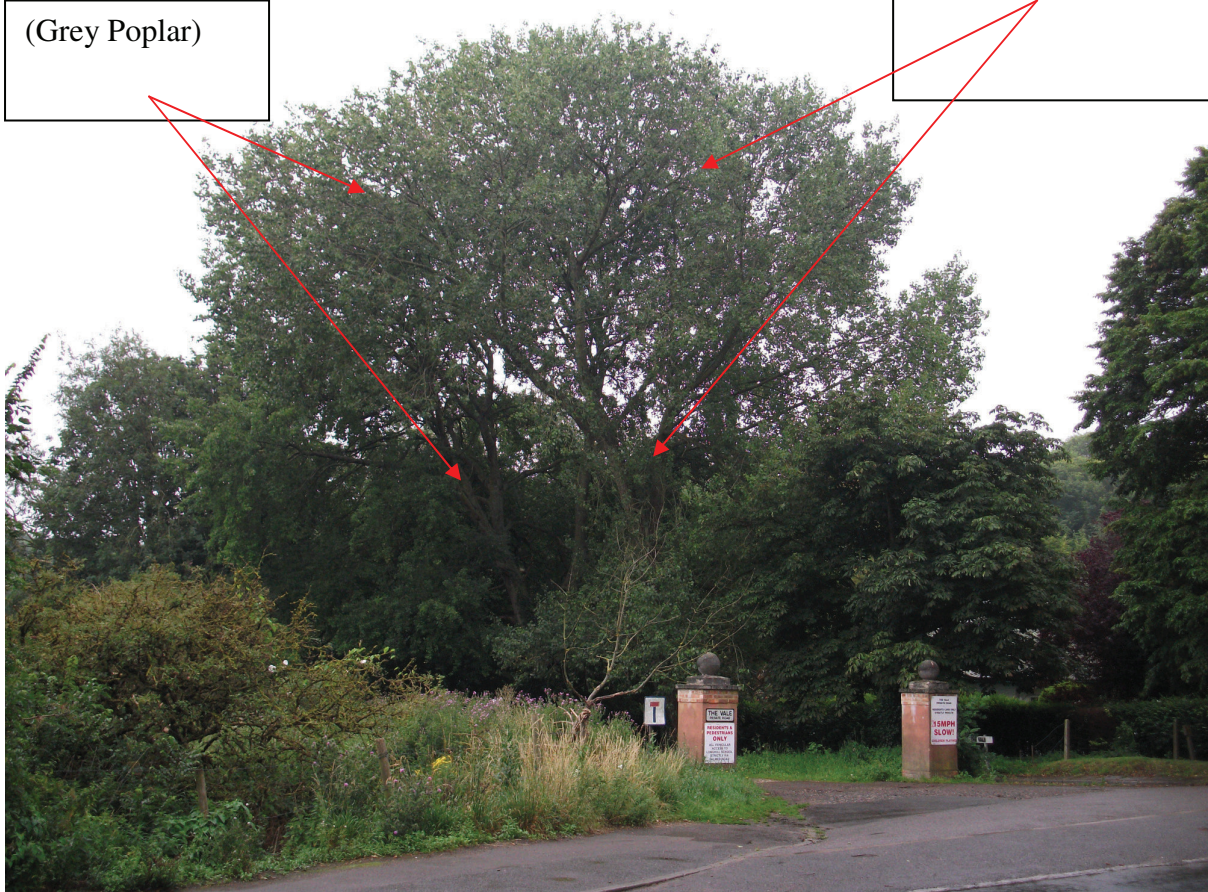
7.1 This tree is highly visible from the road and pavement. It has high public amenity value.

7.2 The tree is obviously in decline with several structural defects that should not be ignored. The tree could be pollarded, however, this would render the tree aesthetically unpleasing and unworthy of Preservation Order, therefore consent should be granted to remove the tree at this time and a suitable replacement planted.

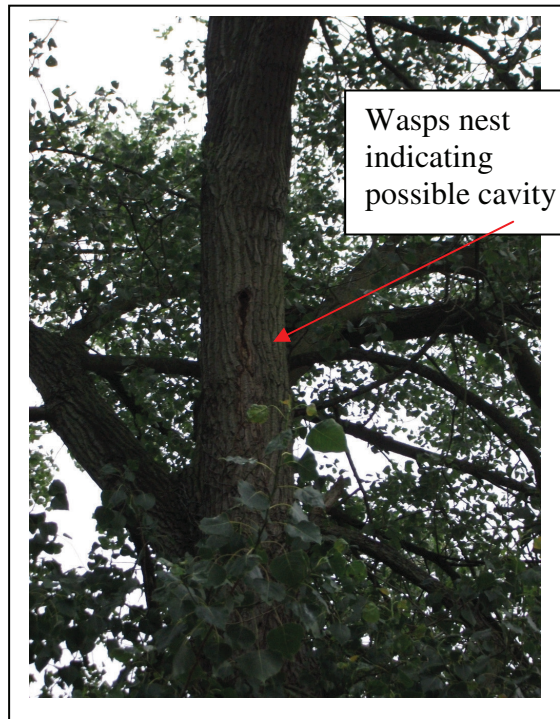
BH2011/02101: 1 The Vale (Aspen)

The Aspen the subject of this application.

(Grey Poplar)

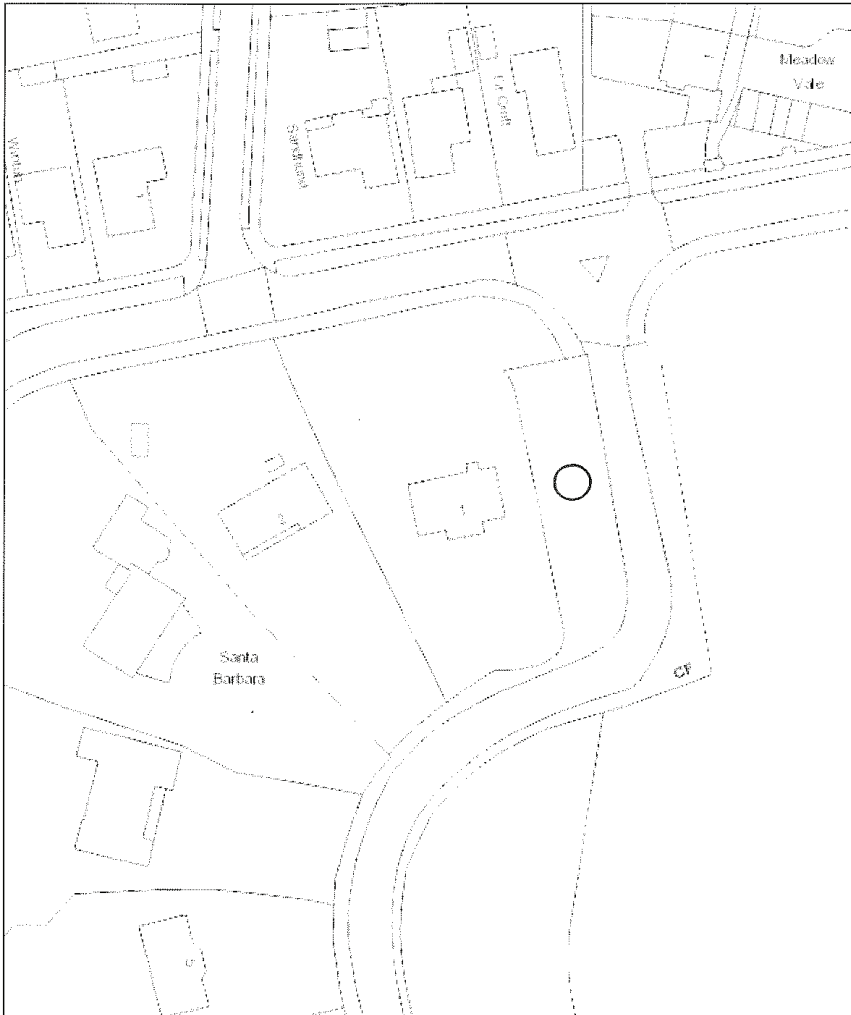


Large pruning wound at approximately 4m



Wasps nest indicating possible cavity

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



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BH2011/02101 beside 1 The Vale, Ovingdean



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

Gillian Marston
Head of City Infrastructure

