

**Application Number:** BH2008/02387                      **Ward:** Stanford

**Address:** Balfour Junior School, Balfour Road, Brighton

**Proposal:** To fell 1 x Crataegus monogyna, Tree Number T.77 covered by Tree Preservation Order (No. 15) 1999.

**Officer:** Di Morgan, tel. 01273 292186

**Date Received:** 1 July 2008

**Applicant:** R W Green Ltd, Lewes

## 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 This tree is situated in the playground area of Balfour Junior School. This Tree Preservation Order covers nearly 200 trees within the grounds of Balfour / Varndean and Dorothy Stringer Schools, several of which are in Balfour's playground.

## **4 Proposal**

- 4.1 The applicant wishes to fell this specimen to the ground as they feel it has major basal decay and is in excess of 60% dead.

## **5 Relevant Planning History**

- 5.1 BH2008/01088 – 4 x Wheatley Elms – prune back branches from BT cables and lightly crown raise. 1 x Cherry and surrounding trees – crown raise. 1 x Cherry – cut back branches from guttering and shed and crown raise. 1 x Thorn – crown raise.
- 5.2 BH2007/00705 – 1 x Elm – remove split limbs, 6 x Horse Chestnuts – crown lift to 3 m height, 1 x Horse Chestnut – lightly thin by 15% and crown lift to 3 m, 3 x Thorns – crown lift to 3 m, 1 x Red Plum – crown lift to 3 m.
- 5.3 BH2006/00051 – 1 x Horse Chestnut – crown thin and deadwood. 2 x Wheatley Elms – deadwood.

## **6 Considerations**

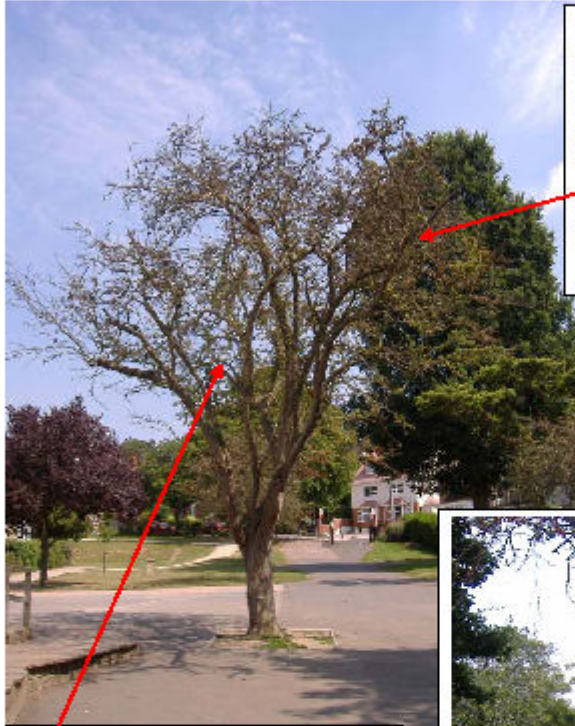
- 6.1 This Hawthorn is approximately 7 – 8 metres in height and a crown spread of 6 metres.
- 6.2 At the time of the inspecting officer's visit, it was estimated that 70% of the crown is now dead, and further sections show signs of deterioration.
- 6.3 Crown break is at 2 m. The tree suffers from a helical twist. The twist has split open to reveal a deep cavity from ground level to crown break, revealing little heartwood.
- 6.4 The tree is situated in a 2m square soil pit in the playground area. Crudely severed roots are visible.
- 6.5 This over-mature tree is obviously in decline and may fall in an uncontrolled manner at some future time. Given its location in a children's playground, it is felt better to fell this tree in a controlled manner and a replacement secured.

## **7 Conclusion**

- 7.1 The tree the subject of this application is of particularly poor form.

7.2 The poor health and structure of this tree renders it of little amenity value and the impact of its removal will be negligible.

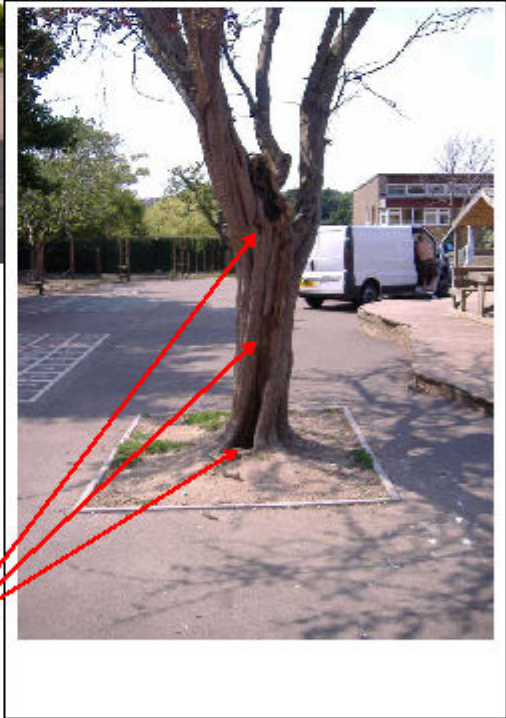
**BH2008/02387**  
**Balfour Junior School, Balfour Road**



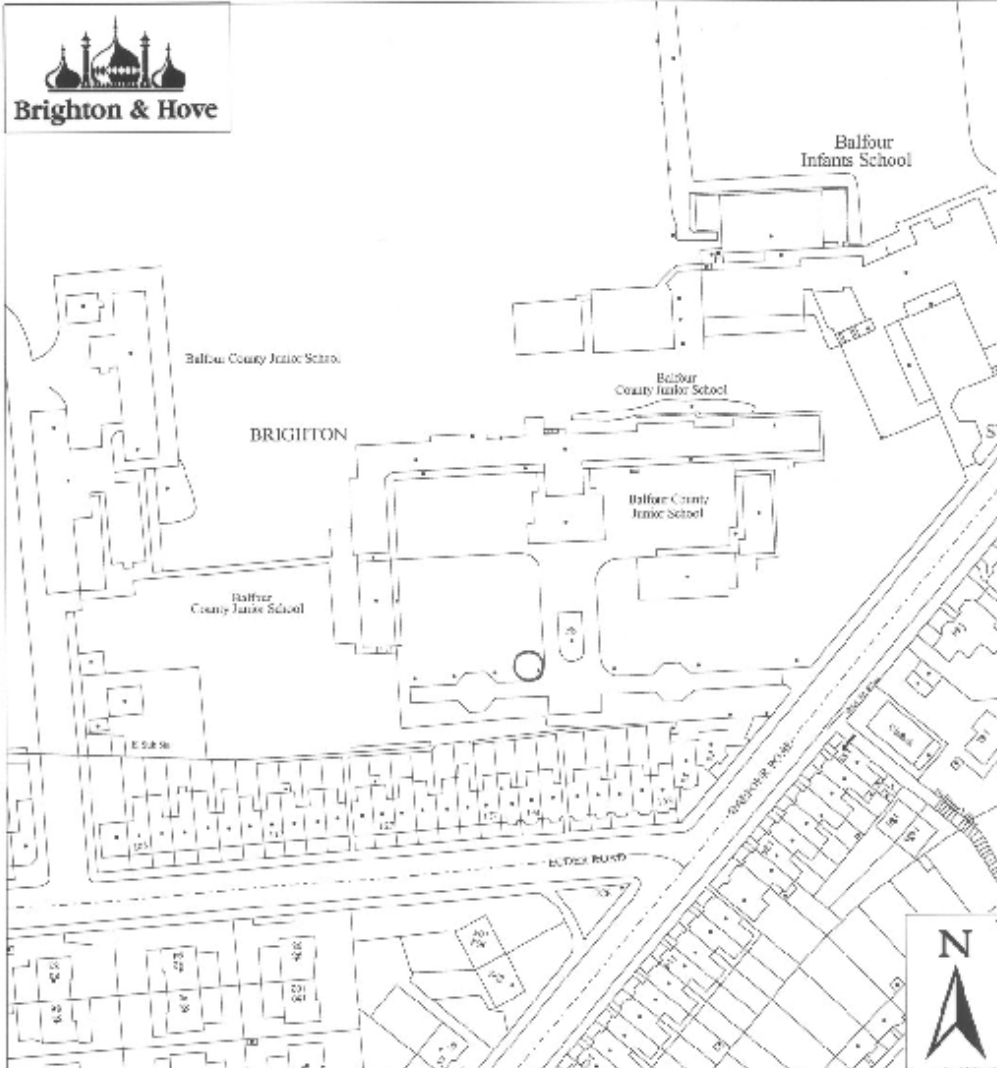
The tree the subject of this application, showing in excess of 70% die-back in the canopy.




Continuing die-back in the crown.



Tree's planting pit in playground showing severed roots, as well as deep split in main trunk from ground level to crown break.



**BRIGHTON & HOVE COUNCIL**  
**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990**  
**TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING (TREE PRESERVATION) (No 15) ORDER 1999**

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ADDRESS	Balfour Junior School, Balfour Road.
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SCALE	1:1250