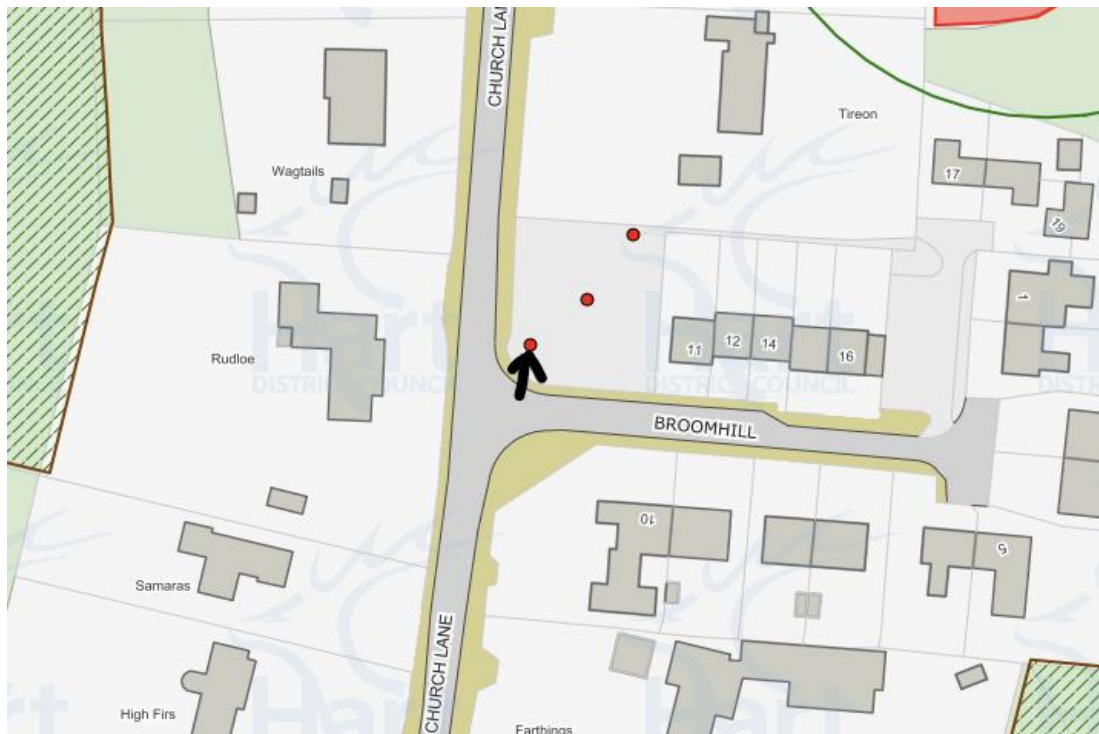


## COMMITTEE REPORT

APPLICATION NO.	23/01662/TPO
LOCATION	<b>Broomhill Ewshot Farnham Hampshire GU10 5BE</b>
PROPOSAL	1. English oak - Crown reduce the remaining canopy by 3-4m to reshaping and balance.
APPLICANT	Mr Steven Lyons
CONSULTATIONS EXPIRY	N/A
APPLICATION EXPIRY	26 September 2023
WARD	Church Crookham West And Ewshot
RECOMMENDATION	<b>Approve</b>



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**Please Note: Map is not to scale**

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## **BACKGROUND**

This application is presented to Planning Committee in accordance with the Council's Constitution Appendix A, Clause 1d) because the District Council is the applicant and landowner.

## **DESCRIPTION OF SITE**

The tree is within the ownership of Hart District Council and stands within an area of public open space on the corner of Church Lane and Broomhill, Ewshot. The open space is broadly level and partly enclosed by picket fencing from the public highway to the south and west with the curtilage of a residential property sitting to the east. The wider area is verdant characterised by residential properties of differing character with the street scene dominated by street trees and hedgerows.

## **PROPOSAL**

Permission is sought to reduce the crown of an English Oak tree protected by a Tree Preservation Order by 3-4m to re-shape and balance the tree following storm damage.

The works have been carried out as there was an increased risk of branch failure, therefore this request is now retrospective.

## **CONSULTEES RESPONSES**

Not applicable.

## **NEIGHBOUR COMMENTS**

None received.

## **PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT**

Applications for works to trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order are considered under the:

- Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
- Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation)(England) Regulations 2012

## **CONSIDERATIONS**

The English oak tree subject of this application is protected by Tree Preservation Order number ORD/09/00019 which was made on the 7 September 2009.

The subject tree recently shed a large limb onto the highway during stormy weather which was subsequently cleared and emergency works undertaken to minimise risk from damaged parts of the tree. The damage resulted in the tree having an exposed open canopy and remaining long limbs were exposed to high winds due to the prevailing wind direction, with potential for further failure. The request therefore sought to reduce the remaining canopy of the tree by 3-4m in order to reshape and rebalance the tree, with the works deemed necessary to stabilise the tree's impaired

physical structure.

Since the submission of the application, the works proposed within the application have been undertaken prior to the consent being issued. Anyone who contravenes an Order by damaging or carrying out work on a tree protected by an Order without getting permission from the local planning authority is guilty of an offence and may be fined.

Notwithstanding that these works were carried out at the applicant's risk, had the application been determined within the original timescale, it is considered that the arboricultural operations proposed would not have a detrimental impact on public visual amenity within the local and wider landscape, or tree health. The pruning work ensures that the tree can be retained on this prominent corner and should promote further growth. As such the tree should flourish and continue with its contribution to the street scene and ecosystem services.

It is therefore considered that the proposed tree pruning is acceptable, and it would not be expedient to pursue any offence. It is therefore recommended that the works are granted consent.

## **CONCLUSION**

The proposed tree pruning works are considered to be reasonable and proportionate to the amenity value that the tree affords in the public domain.

Had the works not already been undertaken, a decision would have been subject to a condition to requiring the works to be carried out in accordance with BS3998:2010 Tree Work – Recommendations. It is not necessary to now impose this condition.