Item No 03:-

20/03942/TPO

Abbey Grounds
Dugdale Road
Cirencester
Gloucestershire

Item No 03:-

Yew trees T67 and T72 on plan at Abbey Grounds Dugdale Road Cirencester

Reduce branch spread over car park by 3m to leave radial branch spread on car park side of 4m. T72 - Remove dying branch. Reason: To correct unbalanced crown

Works to trees with a TPO 20/03942/TPO	
Applicant:	Cotswold District Council
Agent:	
Case Officer:	Harrison Bowley
Ward Member(s):	Councillor Mark Harris
Committee Date:	13th January 2021
RECOMMENDATION:	PERMIT

Main Issues:

(a) Impact of the proposed pruning on the wellbeing and amenity value of the protected trees.

Reasons for Referral:

This application has been referred to the Planning and Licensing Committee for determination, in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, because it involves works to protected trees on Council owned land.

1. Site Description:

The application site consists of a plot of land to the south of the Abbey Grounds Car Park, set to the west of the main park. The application relates to two yew trees set adjacent to the car park, forward of a large cluster of trees positioned along the plot boundary.

An Area Tree Preservation Order (TPO 1964) was served on the land by Gloucestershire County Council in 1964. Cotswold District Council became responsible for the TPO in 1974.

2. Relevant Planning History:

N/A

3. Planning Policies:

N/A

4. Observations of Consultees:

None received at time of writing.

5. View of Town/Parish Council:

No objections subject to the comments of the Tree Officer.

6. Other Representations:

At the time of writing this report, no comments have been received.

7. Applicant's Supporting Information:

Subsidence Report Previous Decision Notices

8. Officer's Assessment:

Background and Proposed Development

An Area Tree Preservation Order (TPO 1964) was served on the land by Gloucestershire County Council in 1964. Cotswold District Council became responsible for the TPO in 1974.

The application proposes:

- i. Reduction of the branch spread of both trees by 3m in order to leave radial branch spread of 4m on the northern side.
- ii. Removal of a dying branch from T72.

Reason: The works are proposed in order to correct an unbalanced crown,

(a) Impact of the proposed pruning on the wellbeing and amenity value of the protected tree

The tree inspector findings show that the existing trees currently have longer, heavier branches on the car park side of the trees. T72 currently have branches overhanging adjoining garages, with one low lying branch over the car park with the remaining crown thinner than others.

The proposed works will therefore result in the correction of the currently unbalanced crown and will contribute towards the general maintenance of the trees. Furthermore, the works will reduce the spread over the car park, resulting in a general amenity improvement for the area.

9. Conclusion:

The works are necessary in order to maintain the trees and amenity of the car park and are therefore recommended for approved.

10. Proposed conditions:

1. Works subject to this application must be carried out in accordance with the British Standard for tree works BS3998:2010

Reason: To ensure that works are carried out to an industry pre-defined standard, in the interests of the health, safety and appearance of the preserved trees.

2. Climbing spikes/irons must not be used whilst undertaking any form of works on living trees, except on those that are to be felled.

Reason: Climbing spikes can cause extensive and long term damage to tree health

Informatives:

- 1. If the trees are not in your ownership, you will require the permission of the owner before any works can be carried out.
- 2. Work to trees can have detrimental impacts on protected wildlife species. All British birds, their nests and eggs (with certain, very limited exceptions) are protected by law, as are all bat species and their roosts (even when unoccupied). Prior to commencing work you should ensure that bats and bat roosts; and nesting birds and birds' nests will not be adversely affected. If you suspect that a bat or a bat roost is likely to be affected by the proposed works, you should consult Natural England (www.naturalengland.org.uk)

