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Item No 08:-

19/00254/TPO

Beeches Car Park Beeches Road Cirencester Gloucestershire

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Works to trees with a TPO 19/00254/TPO		
Applicant:	Cotswold District Council	
Agent:	Cotswold District Council	
Case Officer:	Amy Hill	
Ward Member(s):	Councillor Joe Harris	
Committee Date:	13th February 2019	
RECOMMENDATION:	PERMIT	

Fell T30 (Red Horse Chestnut) due to decay at Beeches Car Park Beeches Road Cirencester Gloucestershire

Main Issues:

(a) The potential loss of amenity due to the need to carry out tree works for safety reasons.

Reasons for Referral:

This application has been referred to the Planning Committee for determination because it involves works to a protected tree on Council owned land.

1. Site Description:

This application relates to a tree on the western edge of Beeches Road Car Park, along the river Churn. An Area Tree Preservation Order (TPO 4) was served on the land by Cotswold District Council in 1991.

2. Relevant Planning History:

N/A

3. Planning Policies:

N/A

4. Observations of Consultees:

N/A

5. View of Town/Parish Council:

Cirencester Town Council noted their regret of the loss of any trees, but did not raise an objection to the felling of the tree due to the decay.

6. Other Representations:

No representations received at time of writing report

7. Applicant's Supporting Information:

N/A

8. Officer's Assessment:

This application is to fell a Red Horse Chestnut (T30 on the attached plan) due to evident decay and frass present within its trunk.

During a recent tree inspection, decay and frass were found, along with Flammulina velutipes fungi. This fungus is considered to be saprophyte and therefore an indication of deadwood within the main supporting trunk of the tree.

As a result it is at risk of stem failure, and would thus pose a risk to the public given its sitting within a public car park. Although the tree remains of amenity value to the area, it is nevertheless considered necessary to allow the work to fell the tree due to the hazard it represents.

It is proposed to leave the tree stump at 1.5 metres in height which would minimise any potential public danger it would cause, whilst providing a microhabitat for saproxylic organisms including fungi, lichens, invertebrates and mosses.

Due to the amenity value of the group of trees along the edge of the car park, it is proposed to plant a replacement tree of a suitable species close to the felled tree, to continue tree cover for future amenity.

9. Conclusion

The works are necessary to remove the tree which presents an unacceptable risk to public safety. The application is therefore recommended for approval subject to the condition of planting a suitable alternative.

10. Proposed conditions:

The tree work that is the subject of this application is permitted and must be carried out within two years of the date of this notice after which consent lapses and a new application must be made.

Reason: To ensure that works to trees that are protected by Tree Preservation Orders within Cotswold District are effectively controlled and monitored.

Following the felling of the Red Horse Chestnut a replacement tree must be planted. The replacement tree must be selected from the following list of species:

Mongolian lime; a fastigiate oak; or a river birch.

The replacement tree must be planted within a 5m radius of the felled tree during the planting season following. It must be planted in accordance with current industry best practice and of a light standard size.

Should the replacement trees be removed, die or become severely damaged or seriously diseased, all within 5 years of planting, it must be replaced by a tree of a similar size and species to that originally planted. Any modifications to the requirements of this condition must be agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that the trees are replaced for the benefit of the amenity of the area and in order to preserve the visual amenities which exist at present on the site.

