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Supporting Statement: Tree Works to Ennor Close

Date 30/06/2022

Part 1

Site 34 Ennor Close, Old Town, St Mary's

Authors Housing Department: Council of the Isles of Scilly

Introduction

1. The purpose of this document is to support the tree works application which seeks permission to pollard five trees adjacent to the public road (U38) in the Ennor Close area

Proposed Site

2. The proposed site is located within the property boarder between 34 Ennor Close and Ennor Close (U38). A castanea sativa (sweet chestnut) and four ulmus procera (elm) are located in the garden/boundary wall of 34 Ennor Close. (marked on the location plan with Trees)
3. These trees are located in an area that is relatively enclosed in the character with the roads and public pathways. The proposed work will keep the character of the trees while protecting the safety of the residence and ensuring that the trees are properly maintained
4. The trees are contained in the area of outstanding natural beauty and a conservation zone.

Proposed Works

5. The proposal for the five trees located in the garden/wall boundary of 34 Ennor Close, the four elms and the one sweet chestnut, are for the trees to be pollarded. This will stop the overhanging of the trees which is currently causing concern to the tenants and pushing the pedestrians off the sidewalk and onto the road. This is then causing potential safety risk for pedestrians in the area.
6. Current best practice is that there should be at least 5.2 metres between the road/sidewalk and any other hanging branches.
7. They will take place out of the nesting birds season, between either, the 15th August and the 31st October or 1st February and the 15th March
8. The operational services of the council of the Isles of Scilly will be undertaking the works where possible. Where it is not possible a local tree surgeon will be contracted to undergo these works.

Access

9. Access to the site will be from either the public highway (U38) or within the enclosed garden area.
10. If requested from the Local Highway Authority, while the pollarding of the trees bordering the public road (U38) is taking place a temporary partial road closure will be sought to ensure public safety.

Ecological Impact

11. Elms are native deciduous tree species that are now rare on Mainland UK due to the spread of Dutch elm disease. This results in a higher need for the protection and the proper maintenance of elms which are unaffected on the Isles of Scilly.
12. Likewise sweet chestnuts are under threat from chestnut blight which although is new to the UK it is mainly found in isolated cases in southern England. Sweet chestnuts are also found to be susceptible to fungal diseases. This like the elms requires the proper maintenance of unaffected sweet chestnuts.

Appendices

Appendix A: Location Plan

Appendix B: Photos