

5 The Barracks Upper Froyle GU34 4JR

Statement in support of an application to carry out tree works within the conservation area

This CAT application is notice of an intention to fell **T1 Willow** as shown on the submitted Site Plan and in the photographs below. It is an existing tree in our garden that was the subject of a previous CAT application- 30552 / 16 – submitted by the previous owner of 5 The Barracks, and determined on 28 November 2018. That application related mainly to the crown reduction of this tree, one of two significantly large trees in the garden at that time, the other being a flowering cherry that was subject to a later application in 2019 – 30552 / 18 – and subsequently felled as it was implicated in an insurance claim as a cause of subsidence that had resulted in material damage to the neighbouring garage.

The description in the decision notice for the 2018 application was:

Pussy Willow – Reduce crown by 6.4 metres in height and 3.8 metres in width, leaving a finished crown height of 3.6 metres and a finished crown width of 3.4 metres.

The stated reasons for reducing it at that time were based on its overall bulk and mass within the garden, but, more particularly, its actual location in the narrowest part of the garden close to boundaries with adjoining neighbours that were concerned that the tree was creating excessive shading – please refer to submitted Site Plan. The canopy reached within 3 to 4 metres of the north-west façade of West End Cottage, also a Grade II listed property, overhanging a private area of their garden that forms the family's main outside amenity area, with a paved terrace, external dining area, barbecue and the children's trampoline.

We understand that the reduction work, which effectively amounted to pollarding the tree, was carried out in early 2019, following which the nearby cherry tree was felled later that year, both prior to our ownership.

Two smaller specimen birch trees were planted to replace the cherry tree, complementing nearby birch trees in neighbouring gardens.

Prior to our ownership the previous owners had planted eight additional trees in the garden as part of a strategic design layout.

Unfortunately, less than four years later, the reduced Willow has grown back to exactly the same size as it was in 2018, standing approximately 10 metres high by 7 metres wide, and substantially overhanging the garden of West End Cottage again.

It is evident that, in this case, pollarding is not an effective enough technique to prevent this tree outgrowing the allotted space. Given that we have two points of access to the house and garden, and both are restricted to only about a metre in width at key points, we are at a loss to know how to deal with the ongoing management of the tree. Given the layout restrictions and configuration of the garden itself, we cannot practically or financially bear the prospect of having this tree heavily pruned every two years or so.

We understand that the lower part of our garden was sub-divided when the cottages were owned by Froyle Estate, and the section beyond the splayed boundary was sold off to West End Cottage. The original boundary is shown as a red dashed line on the Site Plan. This means that, when planted, the

Willow stood more logically in the centre of the plot, rather than its current location very close to two neighbouring boundaries.

As it stands, the tree is currently overwhelming and overshadowing parts of both our garden and that of West End Cottage, and our neighbours are concerned by its close proximity, and the three, more appropriately-sized, neighbouring birch trees are being substantially crowded by it.

Ironically, and regrettably, this notification to fell is not in respect of a tree that is either diseased or dangerous, but as a result of it simply outgrowing its location. Given the overall layout of the garden itself, and the elevated setting of our plot on the very edge of Upper Froyle, enjoying wonderful downland views to the west and north, it is unfortunate that the dominance of this tree adds little or no amenity value to that setting.



View of **T1 Willow** from 5 The Barracks



View of Willow at boundary with West End Cottage



View of Willow from rear access to garden