

London Borough of Sutton
Planning, Civic Offices
St Nicholas Way
Sutton SM1 1EA



Saturday, 03 February 2024

Dear Sir / Madam

RE: Tree works to facilitate renovation of historic walled Garden at The Lodge, Honeywood Walk, SM5 3NX

In our application we have explained the rationale and need for tree works in the walled garden as follows:

Lime (T1 on plan) - Re-pollard to previous knuckles and remove deadwood to improve shape and amenity value. This will improve the look of the tree and reduce shading to the South Facing wall of the Victorian Walled Garden allowing the charity to plant fruit trees that need sun; eg apricot & sweet cherry against this wall.

Pine (T2 on plan) - In between the Rear Garden lime trees along the Western side of the Garden there are two additional trees sited in the same location – approx. 80cm apart. One is a Holly tree and the other a pine tree. We are seeking permission to remove the pine tree and replace it with a standard Rowan tree. To mitigate the removal of the pine tree we will plant a new medium sized Rowan tree 3 metres to the South of the location of the pine tree to be removed, as shown on plan. This will replace canopy cover and introduce a native species of tree which is beneficial to birds, insects and other wildlife. The retained holly tree will also thrive much better without competing for light with the pine tree. Furthermore, we will then be able to plant a row of apple/pear trees in place of the Pine on the same East Facing wall. This East Facing wall bed is currently too shaded by the pine tree to grow fruit trees.

By way of context, we are renovating the Victorian Walled Garden in Carshalton as a heritage, community and environmental project. We are bringing this garden back to a productive walled garden as it used to be in the 1800s. We want the walled garden to add to biodiversity and improve the amenity value of the local area. The garden is now also meeting modern day needs as a community garden space for volunteering, enabling people to engage with their local heritage and re-connect with nature, teaching horticulture, and running eco-wellbeing projects. We are well progressed with this project. 173 volunteers have taken part since 2018 contributing well over 3800 hours of their time. Regular volunteer sessions to continue renovation and development of the garden are ongoing as part of our charity's activities. We have so far planted a number of trained fruit trees in the garden: peach tree, morello cherry and a fig, as well as other fruit: greengage, redcurrants, gooseberries, and bud grafted heritage apple/pear varieties onto rootstock, ready to be planted in place of the disruptive Pine tree. We are also growing a range of vegetables in the garden for volunteers /donations to food bank but are unable to grow vegetables under the pine tree due to shade, the constant falling of pine cones and needles, thus rendering a quarter of the vegetable growing space unusable. As well as shading the East facing wall, the pine tree is also contributing to excessive shading of the garden's historic South facing wall. Removal of the Pine and pruning of the Lime will enable the South facing wall to receive the amount of sun it was designed to receive when built in the 1800s and we will then be able to plant apricot, sweet cherry and kiwi trees against it, as well as the new Rowan Tree referred to above, and the apple/pear trees along the East facing wall.

Lime (T3 on plan) - Crown lift to 2.5 metres. Crown reduction by 1.5metres. This will maintain the general shape and form of the existing canopy and provide reduction points for future pruning. We are also seeking consent to prune back this tree to these established reduction points every two to three years.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tansy Honey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tansy Honey
Ecolocal Charity