

Committee: Planning

Agenda Item

Date: 19 September 2012

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**Title: Proposed tree works at UDC Offices
London Road Saffron Walden**

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Item for decision

Summary

1. This report seeks Committee's consideration of proposed tree work at the UDC London Road Offices. The trees are within a conservation area.

Recommendations

2. No objections raised to the proposed tree work.

Background Papers

3. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and are available for inspection from the author of the report.

Notification of intent to carry out works to trees in a conservation area [ref: UTT/5042/12/TCA]

Impact

- 4.

Communication/Consultation	Notification of works included on <i>Weekly List</i> and UDC web site. Neighbour letter notification.
Community Safety	The tree work will minimise risk to the public and others using the site.
Equalities	None
Health and Safety	Works to be undertaken in accordance with good H&S practice.
Human Rights/Legal Implications	None
Sustainability	Trees felled shall be replaced where appropriate.

Ward-specific impacts	None
Workforce/Workplace	The tree work will be programmed to minimise disruption to the normal operation of the site.

Situation

5. The proposed tree work is required to allow for additional car parking, and management of trees on the site.
6. The proposals included the felling of a holly, a horse chestnut, and a sycamore tree. The holly is approximately 7m in height and in very poor condition; its crown having been compromised by invasive ivy growth. The horse chestnut is a juvenile specimen approximately 5m in height. This subject is not an outstanding specimen, having a thin crown and lacking vigour. The sycamore is a multi-stemmed self set subject of approximately 3m in height, it is poorly formed. The removal of these trees is not considered to significantly impact on the integrity of the structural landscaping of the site.
7. It is proposed to reduce to 5m in height and cut back lateral growth to the main stems of 7 Yew trees. These trees are situated adjacent to The Lodge car park. This work will encourage new growth and density whilst reducing the amount of detritus falling from overhanging branches on to the adjacent car parking area.
8. 29 lime trees situated along the western boundary of the site are proposed to be re-pollarded to reduce the risk of failure occurring at the previous pollard cut points. The epicormic side growth is also proposed to be removed.
9. A young yew tree in the main car is proposed to be lifted and transplanted in a suitable position in the site.

Risk Analysis

10.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Risk of injury or damage	2	UDC/Contractor liability	Risk assessment to be undertaken by contractor and work to be carried out in accordance with good H&S practice.

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project



Holly tree proposed to be felled.



Horse chestnut tree proposed to be felled.



Sycamore tree proposed to be felled.



Yew trees proposed to be reduced to 5m in height and faced-up.



Lime trees proposed to be re-pollarded.



Yew tree proposed to be lifted and transplanted.