

Saltash Town Council

Voluntary Tree Wardens Report

PA21/07837– Lime Tree House Fairmead Road Saltash PL12 4JH

This tree was inspected on 11/10/21

General: this is a good specimen of mostly good shape which has substantial amenity value to the public being close to a busy road and visible from north, south and west as an important part of the street scene. There are not many good lime trees of this standard in the town. The tree was present before the house was built and the building was set well back to allow for future growth. It was noted that the tree has been subject to previous applications.

First part of this application - to reduce the height, estimated by applicant at 18 metres, by 2 metres.

Comment: height on day estimated by eye at 15 metres but please note no other measurements were taken so this estimation cannot be warranted. No overall height reduction seems necessary as the centre top seems to have been reduced anyway some years ago and has not regrown except on the sides at the top - these two protuberances could be removed to reshape the top of the tree.

Second part: to raise the canopy (prune around the bottom) by 1.5 metres upwards.

Comment: there is only one place, on the north west side where raising is strictly necessary and where one long down-hanging branch should be shortened. However, an absolute maximum lift all around of one metre would not harm the appearance.

Third part: to cut back to the boundary wall of the neighbour to the north.

Comment: with a protected tree of this size there will be some spillage of growth but the growth on the neighbour's side is not as seen (from the road) as impinging on the structure of the neighbour's house, but each autumn leaves and twigs would of course fall and might be a nuisance. Please note this is not a case of a neighbour being allowed to cut back to the boundary as this tree has a TPO to preserve its amenity value for all and this categorisation does not refer just to the boundary of any house. However, a pruning of around 0.75 metres of the relevant branches on the neighbour's side, carefully done to preserve the shape, would not substantially harm the appearance.

Additional comment 1: there is an outgrowth as a result of previous pruning towards the house from one branch on the north east side where many shoots have erupted and those could well be removed again to maintain the shape. However, the tree itself does not impinge on the structure of the house, still being sufficiently distant.

Additional comment 2: the householder is understandably concerned about leaf fall on the drive, the work it takes to sweep up etc, and about leaves being blown into gutters (as the tree is deciduous) and that is, as for all such trees, a nuisance factor. This will also affect the neighbour. However, this is all part of the life of the tree and although this can be a nuisance it is not a reason for any pruning action to be taken.

Additional comment 3: there are some odd lesions on the trunk just above head height and a satisfactory reason for this could not be established. They appear to be healing well in places, but it is recommended these be monitored and that the county tree officer look at them at some point. The householder has granted permission for this officer to enter the outside premises to look at these

Adrian White