


LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976

Dangerous Trees

DELEGATED DECISION OFFICER REPORT

AUTHORISATION	INITIALS	DATE
Officer recommendation:	CPD	01.02.24
Manager/HoS Authorisation		05.02.24
Admin checks / despatch completed		

Date received: 22 January 2024

Site Visit: 24 January 2024

Town / Parish: Weeley

Tree Species: Lombardy Poplar (Populus nigra 'Italica')

Address

Weeley Bridge
Holiday Park.
Weeley
Essex
CO16 9DH

1. Site Description

The complaint relates to a row of Poplar trees on the southern boundary of the above holiday park, part of the Parkdean Holiday Resort Company and adjacent to the northern boundary of the land to the south of the holiday park, currently in use as a business run by the person making the complaint.

2. Officer Appraisal

The trees are fully mature Lombardy Poplar and are estimated to be approximately 50 years old. At the time of the inspection the trees were not in leaf and consequently it was not possible to assess the health and vigour of the tree canopy.

The trees appear to have been planted as a windbreak or screen on the boundary of the holiday park. They are planted closely together and are approximately 25 - 30m tall. The shape, form, growth pattern and appearance of the trees is typical of their species. From a visual inspection from the ground, they appear to be in fair condition.

A close examination of the main stems did not reveal clear signs of decay at the bases of the trees although one or two have clearly 'failed' at point approximately 3 to 4m from ground level.

One has recently fallen and caused damage to a vehicle parked on the complainant's land.

During the site visit and meeting with the General Manager of the site a discussion took place regarding the regular inspection of trees on the site and the subsequent maintenance programme for trees that are highlighted in the report generated by the inspection. The General Manager confirmed that regular inspections are carried out and a programme of maintenance works initiated depending on the findings of the report.

In general, the trees are in a condition to be expected for trees of this age and species. Poplar does not have durable heartwood and has an estimated life expectancy of 50 -70 years. It is apparent that some works to the trees is necessary to minimise the future risk of complete or partial failure of the trees.

Recent works to trees elsewhere on the site have been carried out and the General Manager confirmed that a tree surgeon has been engaged to carry out selective reduction or removal of the trees on the boundary of the site where their condition warrants such action.

Although a tree has recently fallen in high winds there is no evidence to suggest that the remaining trees pose an imminent risk of damage or injury that is any greater than posed by any other tree of this age size and species.

At the present time the trees are not considered to be in an imminently dangerous condition and therefore it is not proposed to take action under the powers contained in Part 8 of The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976).

The General Manager of the site has confirmed that works will be carried out in the near future.

3. Recommendation

No action to be taken in respect of the condition of the trees at the present time.

4. Action

Complainant to be formally advised, of the above - that no direct action will be taken under the powers contained in The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 at the present time.

Also that the owner of the land on which the trees are situated will make arrangements for selected works to be carried out to any trees in this location that have any obvious defects.

A file note is to be made to revisit the site in 6 months' time to assess the works that have been carried out and to determine whether the condition of the trees has deteriorated to

such an extent that action may be required under Part 8 of The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

Has the decision been published?	YES	NO
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