

Tree group comments on applications September and October 2017

14 Birch Road CA/17/0233

Proposal

Remove Bramley Apple tree to rear of property

Oxton Society Comment

This is an old spreading apple tree which is visible from Birch Road between numbers 12 and 14 and also from South Bank.

Whilst the removal of this tree will make the rear of number 14 Birch Road more visible from South Bank its loss would not have a major impact on the overall feel of the local environment. As such we would not object to its removal.

37 Christchurch Road CA/17/0238

Proposal

Remove 2 lower branches of Ash. Minor pruning of Cherry in front garden

Oxton Society Comment

The lower branches of the Ash are not visible from a public place and removal will not affect the overall appearance of the tree as seen from afar. No objection.

We have no concerns about minor pruning of the Cherry to maintain its overall shape so long as work is done by a qualified tree surgeon.

6 Mount Pleasant CA/17/0242

Proposal

Remove branches of Ash. Trim Laurel hedge. Remove Laburnum. Reduce height of Holly by 50%

Oxton Society Comment

Removal of lower branches of the Ash will not affect the overall appearance of the tree as these are not clearly visible from the road. No objection.

No objection to trimming of hedge

The Laburnum is a spindly tree within a larger group of trees and its removal would have no significant impact on the overall group. No objection

The Holly again is part of a larger group of trees and as seen from the road a reduction in height of this tree would have little effect on the overall appearance. No objection

16 Shrewsbury Road CA/17/0247

Proposal

1. Reduce to 6-foot Willow to right of house as viewed from road
2. Remove completely Willow to left of house as viewed from road
3. Reduce overhang and trim sides of Sycamores at front

Oxton Society Comment

1. This Willow is visible between no's 16 and 14 Shrewsbury Road. We feel that reduction to a height of 6-foot is excessive but that more judicious pruning by a qualified tree surgeon may be appropriate to ensure retention of the tree.
2. The second Willow is not visible from the road so we have no comment.
3. The trees at the front comprise a Silver Birch, a conifer, a Hazel and also smaller Holly and Rhododendrons rather than the stated Sycamores. Some trimming back of overhanging lower branches by a qualified tree surgeon would be reasonable.

16 Victoria Mount CA/17/0264

Proposal

Fell Sycamore in rear garden. Large limbs falling onto drive and fencing due to squirrels weakening branches. Replace with Dawyck Beech or Sweetgum Worplesdon

Oxton Society Comment

This is a large mature tree clearly visible from Victoria Mount/Fairview Road across the Shrewsbury Arms carpark. Loss of this tree will create a significant gap. Would removal of any damaged or diseased branches be possible without loss of the whole tree?

If the tree is removed we are pleased to see the proposal to replant with a tree which will develop some stature in due course. If members of the Oxton Society then assistance with replanting may be available via the Tree Fund.

16 Kylemore Road CA/17/0274

Proposal

Fell large Copper Beech in rear garden, causing shade in garden and debris in gutters, and replace with something more suitable.

Oxton Society Comment

This is a large mature nicely shaped tree that is clearly visible in the local area. Rather than loose this tree would further crown thinning and crown raising by a

qualified tree surgeon allow retention whilst reducing the problems with shade and debris?

16 Fairview Road CA/17/0281

Proposal

Sycamore on verge of Belfield Drive causing excessive shade in garden of 16 Fairview Road. Take out left hand trunk and remove top third of crown and shape tree.

Oxton Society Comment

We are concerned that removal of one of the 2 main trunks will adversely affect the overall shape of this tree. We feel that crown thinning may be more appropriate and still help reduce shading to the garden.

22 Claughton Firs CA/17/0282

Proposal

Front garden. Cherry tree fell because of excess shading and negative impact on tree beside. Hornbeam tree crown reduction due to excess shading.

Oxton Society Comment

We have no objection to removal of the small Cherry tree. The other tree has a large extensive dense canopy and we agree that some crown reduction or thinning would be appropriate if undertaken sympathetically..

29 Storeton Road CA/17/0283

Proposal

1. Front garden Fir tree; fell as in front of window and appears to be dying
2. Rear garden tree growing into boundary wall causing damage and reduces light into garden. Fell and replace with shrub
3. Rear garden Acer tree. Prune and reshape to reduce height
4. Front garden Pine tree; remove lower branches over driveway

Oxton Society Comment

1. Small distressed tree, no objection to removal
2. Tree not clearly visible from road. Other trees nearby so no objection.
3. No comment as tree not visible from road.
4. No objection to minor crown raising whilst maintaining overall shape and appearance of this large impressive tree.

16 Rose Mount CA/17/0297

Proposal

Oak tree front garden needs trimming as tall and growing into adjoining trees.
Excessive shading of garden

Oxton Society Comment

Tree is partially obscured by larger tree nearer to the road. No objection to crown reduction if undertaken sympathetically. Would crown thinning be more appropriate in trying to reduce shading whilst maintaining shape of tree? The advice of a professional tree surgeon would be helpful

Talbot Court, Village Rd T/17/0234

Proposal

Remove 1 x Cotoneaster, 2x Ash, 3 x Cherries and 1 x Lombardy Poplar between the rear of garages 42-46 and 17 Alton Road.

Crown lifting to give 4m clearance above garage roofs to Sycamores at rear of garages 40, 26, 25, 23, 19 & 17 and to Lime at rear of garage 21.

Removal of 2 small upper branches and lower regrowth from Horse Chestnut outside apartment 73.

Oxton Society Comment

The Horse Chestnut tree referred to clearly lies outside the Oxton Conservation Area so we will not comment on this aspect of the application.

There is dispute as to the ownership of the other trees in the application and also some uncertainty as to whether they lie within the Oxton Conservation Area or just outside. Having been asked for comments on this application by Wirral Council we will consider the impact of the proposed works on the trees lying behind the Talbot Court garages without prejudging any ownership issues.

The line of trees lying between Talbot Court garages and the properties in Alton Rd are clearly visible from Alton Road and Village Road within the conservation area (and to some extent from both Wellington Road and Shrewsbury Road looking into the conservation area). They are mature trees and contribute to the character of Oxton Conservation Area especially in the context of the older listed properties at the Village Road end of Alton Road. They also provide a green barrier between the properties in Alton Road and the Talbot Court apartments.

Removal of the trees at the rear of garages 42-46 would be a sad loss to the overall line of mature trees. We note that 2 Lombardy Poplars behind 17 Alton Road have already, recently been felled and that reduction of the crown of at least one of the other trees in this group has also taken place.

Crown lifting of the other trees would have a lesser effect on the overall appearance of the line of trees particularly from afar. However we wonder if a more piecemeal approach in removing individual low lying branches may be all that is necessary to prevent damage to the garages whilst still maintaining the bulk of the green barrier referred to above.

2 South Hill Grove T/17/0248

Proposal

1. Fell Beech trees near house and replace with Ash
2. Fell Beech trees near house and replace with Ash
3. 20-30% crown reduction of 2 x Beech trees retaining shape
4. Prune back Holly restoring shape
5. Prune back Holly restoring shape
6. Raise crown of Sycamore by 5 meters retaining natural shape
7. Ash Sycamore and Holly; no work proposed
8. Yew; no work proposed
9. Fell Hornbeam and replace with 2x Holly bushes
10. 10-20% crown reduction to maintain shape
11. Holly left border small tidy up to maintain shape

Oxton Society Comment

1. No comment as cannot be seen from Arno Rd
2. No comment as cannot be seen from Arno Rd
3. The Beech can only partially be seen from Arno Rd and is part of a larger group of trees. The proposed work sounds reasonable.
4. No comment as cannot clearly be seen from Arno Rd
5. No comment as cannot clearly be seen from Arno Rd
6. This tree is clearly visible from Arno Rd. Removal of lower branches will not affect overall shape but does crown need to be raised as much as 5 meters?
7. No work intended
8. No work intended
9. No comment as cannot be seen from Arno Rd
10. Not clearly seen from Arno Rd; a small crown reduction is reasonable
11. This large Holly tree is clearly visible but some minor "tidying up" to restore the shape would be reasonable.

22 Rose Mount T/17/0266

Proposal

1. Remove lower branch of Willow in rear garden overhanging garage, and reduce and thin crown
2. Fell Sycamore in front garden impeding Beech trees to either side

Oxton Society Comment

1. The Willow tree cannot be clearly viewed from the road. As such no objections to work proposed
2. The Sycamore in the front garden is a mature tree making up part of a fine sweep of trees extending along Rose Mount and Fairclough Lane. It would be a shame to lose this tree as, whilst it does sit between 2 mature Beech trees, loss of this tree will, for some time, create a gap in the line of trees.

2 Rich View T/17/0288

Proposal

1. Sycamore 2 Rich View. Crown lifting to balance lower section and allow more light
2. Oak 44 Arno Road. Remove left and right lower boughs
3. Copper Beech 46 Arno Road. Sympathetic crown reduction to allow more light into house and gardens
4. Ash 2 Rich View. Crown reduction and remove diseased left bough to allow more light into gardens

Oxton Society Comment

1. Sympathetic crown lifting as described. No objections
2. Crown lifting by removing 2 lower boughs. No objections
3. Agree work on tree reasonable but would crown thinning be appropriate.
4. Removal of diseased bough sensible. Would crown thinning be more appropriate than crown reduction?