

Planning Advisory Group: Report to Walberswick Parish Council

Planning Application ref DC/16/3865/TCA
Admiral House, The Street, Walberswick IP18 6UE

2.10.2016

1 The application relates to further treework in the front garden of this house. The intention is to fell four trees, a diseased elm, a holm oak which may threaten the structural integrity of a garage, and a pittosporum and a yew tree, as part of 'general garden clearance and maintenance'. A fifth tree, also elm, is to be coppiced.

2 Admiral House lies within the Walberswick Conservation Area. Its garden is very visible from The Street, both close to and from the east as far away as the bend from the Village Green. Before a massive clearance in February 2016, the well tree'd boundary of Admiral House was seen as an important element of the local environment, specifically illustrated as such in the Conservation Area Appraisal (see page 15)

Notwithstanding the claims of 'positive feedback' noted in the report accompanying the Application, it was the case that many in the village were appalled by the destruction, which was carried out without reference to the Parish Council or SCDC's Tree Officer. Correspondence with the Tree Officer at the time reflected these concerns

3 In the opinion of the Planning Advisory Group, it is important to retain as many of the trees as possible in this location, including those which are alleged to interfere with 'general garden clearance and maintenance'. Where trees need felling because of disease or threat to structures, a scheme of replacement planting must be required as a condition of any consent.