

Epsom Civic Society

shaping the future, safeguarding the past

22, Devitt Close,
Ashted,
Surrey KT21 1JS

Head of Planning,
Epsom & Ewell Borough Council,
Town Hall, The Parade,
Epsom, Surrey,
KT18 5BY

5 February 2014

Contact Officer: David Gadsden

Our Ref: ECS/RHA/13-16

Dear Sir,

**13/01304/TPO: Felling of a cherry tree in the forecourt of 91 High Street Epsom Surrey
KT19 8DR (TPO 383/T1).**

The tree in question was the subject of a similar request in March 2007, when it was identified as a schmittii cherry. Happily, that application was turned down. The present application is supported by a brief report, the contents of which we find less than compelling. The application itself states that the tree stands in the public footpath: it does not. It also adds that the tree's removal would permit new tree planting further from the building. This would presumably be in the public highway and, apart from restricting the footway on a very busy corner, would relieve the owner of the building from further responsibility.

The tree appears to have had little proper care and we would advocate that steps are taken to attempt its retention through appropriate surgery and, perhaps, by relaying the surrounding pavement, including a tree grill to allow greater ingress of water, as we suggested in our letter of 15 March 2007. It provides almost the only green element in this part of the town centre, and its loss would have a correspondingly significant impact. Its replacement would inevitably result in the planting of a much smaller specimen which would be more susceptible to vandalism.

We urge the council to refuse this application until further measures are attempted to ensure the continued vitality of this tree.

Yours faithfully,

For Epsom Civic Society
Robert Austen

cc Town Ward Councillors

